



IN DEPTH

Official Newsletter of the Submariners Association

Patron: Admiral Sir James Perowne KCVO, KBE

Vice Patron: John Weale CB, OBE

Issue No: 86

www.submarinersassociation.co.uk

October 2024



In This Issue – A Selection of the Items	
Page 2	Editorial
Page 3 & 4	Chairman's Report
Pages 3 & 4	Visit by HM the King
Pages 6 to 8	Submarine Losses of WWII
Pages 8 & 10	Membership & OBOR
Pages 11 to 18	RN, HMNB Clyde & Submarine News
Pages 18 to 20	Around the Branches
Pages 20 to 24	Other Submarine News
Pages 24 to 26	Book Reviews
Pages 27 to 29	Submariners Crossed the Bar

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

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Chairman:

I.M.(Iain) Mackenzie, MBE
Dolphin Cottage
41, Grafton Road
Worthing
Sussex BN11 1QY
Tel: 07403 433178
sachairman@submarinefamily.uk

Vice Chairman:

A (Andy) Knox, Esq.
52, Kildonan Drive
Helensburgh G84 9SA
Tel: 07789 692195
andyknox@hotmail.com

Secretary:

Ron Gordon, Esq.
31, North Hill
Fareham
Hants PO16 7HS
Tel: 07890532501
sasecretary@submarinefamily.uk

Treasurer:

A. (Andy) Bain, Esq.
5, Rydal Mount
Belthorn
Lancs. BB1 2PP
Tel: 07792 100896
satreasurer@submarinefamily.uk

Membership Secretary:

Gary Strange, Esq.
12, Speedwell Close
Warrington
Cheshire
WA3 2GT
sawebmaster@submarinefamily.uk

Webmaster

Gary Strange, Esq.
12, Speedwell Close
Warrington
Cheshire
WA3 2GT
sawebmaster@submarinefamily.uk

EDITORIAL

Hello Everyone, Here is your October 2024 Issue of In Depth (No. 86) – a little later than intended for various reasons (my apologies for that) but better late than never! I have managed to include some photos of the ‘Roll Out’ and ‘Launch’ of HMS AGAMEMNON – the 6th of the seven ‘Astute’ Class submarines being built here in Barrow. AGAMEMNON is now sat alongside the Wet Dock Quay for ‘Final Fitting Out’, ‘Power Range Testing’ and Systems commissioning. There is also an article on the recent visit of His Majesty the King to HM Naval Base, Clyde and another about the recent Submarine Oscars presentations!

I have included the usual items in this In Depth No 86 apart from ‘New & Rejoining Members’ where only basic information is currently available but there is some information on the current status of overall membership of the SA, the Submarine Family and the Friends of the Submarine Museum.

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

Two book Reviews in this Issue – the first is ‘Operation Title’ – about the attempted Chariot Raid on the German Battleship TIRPITZ in its lair in the Norwegian Fjords. Although the attempt failed all the participants (except one) managed to escape to Sweden. The unfortunate ‘one’ was shot, wounded and captured and was later executed by the Gestapo under Hitler’s infamous Commando Order. The second book is the fourth and final book in the Series describing the Ships and Shipbuilding activities in the Leith Shipyards from 1965 until the Yard closed in 1984. 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. 87 will be published on 1st January 2025. Contributions are required to be with the Editor (me) by 15th December 2024 - see contact details below. Please make sure I get your contributions in good time by Email or Snail Mail as appropriate!, Regards, Barrie Downer

The Firs, Dundalk Street, Barrow Island, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA14 2RZ

Tel: 01229 820963 or 07850 915650 Email: frozennorth55@gmail.com

CHAIRMANS DIT

“And there it was gone!” I am of course referring to Summer 🤖. I can see the Worthing Ferris wheel from my bedroom window as I lie in bed. Summer starts when I look up and the Ferris wheel starts to grow, Winter sets in when I look up and it disappears.

Each year summer is the time when the Submarine Oscars take place in Glasgow, this year was no exception. A good turn out and enjoyed by all. So I'm told. I had booked my flight and accommodation, Knox Air B&B. Unfortunately I had to cancel at short notice due to Kidney Stones. A painful complaint I have suffered from for years (diet, I am reliably informed) first manifesting when I was ‘casevaced’ off ONSLAUGHT into Copenhagen – on the day the Argentinian’s surrendered in the Falklands as a matter of fact.

As you may well have heard big changes are happening within TSF. As Chairman I apologise to all our members for not scotching rumours or briefing you all. The reason for this is the SA Committee is unsure of what those changes are and how they will affect the SA. Commodore Jim Perks - your President - has taken a personal and active role in discussions with Admiral Peter Wilkinson (Chairman of TSF) to get as much information as to how these changes will impact on both TSF and the SA.

I don't see there is anything to gain by sending out unsubstantiated information that would only muddy the water. When the SAC know, you will know. One last thing I have to say on this subject - everyone involved in these changes have the “Families” best interest at heart. Before any major decisions are made regarding the SA by the SAC members will be informed and invited to vote using the One Member One Vote (OMOV) system.

I would ask you all to be patient as the Crossing The Bar (CTB) notification system is fine tuned. Please remember formulating information and releasing that information regarding CTB involves many other Agencies (for example We Remember Submariners (WRS) and TSF to ensure the CTBs family are in agreement and indeed that the name and Service details are correct!

I am not putting my name forward for re-election as National Chairman at the AGM in March. I will have completed my 3 years and feel a better candidate would be advantageous to the Association.

If you feel this is a position you could give your time and effort to and believe in the saying - ‘Ask what I can do for the Association, not what can the Association do for me’ then you are the person we are looking for.

IAW the guidelines previously the Chairman must have served on the SA committee at some stage.

Applicants please notify our National Treasurer - Ian Leach on secretary@submarinersassociation.co.uk with a letter explaining why you think you would make a good chairman and attach your CV by Friday 13 November 2024.

Below is a copy of the National Chairman’s Guidelines to give yourself a hint for what you are letting yourself in for!!!!

I would urge all Members to consider attending the AGM and Family Weekend at The Holiday Inn, Leicester. We have been there a few times - not only for its central location - but they know us and are used to our little quirks. Never had a bad stay.

Andy Knox is running the organisation of our Annual Events now, so please support him as you have supported me.

Iain

National Chairman

Submariners Association Chairmans Guidelines

This document is intended to assist the Submariners Association Chairman in conducting their role within the Submariners Association (SA).

Objectives

To manage and support the running of the SA on behalf of its members. To be proactive by always endeavouring to find ways to increase the profile of the SA and the efficiency of its processes.

Promote and embrace modernisation of the Association.

Responsibilities

SAC Meetings

To Chair planned SAC meetings and other meetings as required to discuss emerging issues.

To hold the casting vote in any voting scenario.

Ensure every endeavour is made to achieve deadlines.

SA Annual General Meeting

To Chair and actively support the organisation of the AGM.

To maintain order and ensure correct procedures are complied with.

To hold the casting vote in any voting scenario.

SA Memorial Parade

Attend and actively support the organisation of the Submariners Memorial Parade.

To send invites to all VIP's.

To meet and ensure all VIP's are given the correct marks of respect.

Correspondence

Responsible for ensuring all communications received are dealt with in a timely manner.

Ensure the President and the Chair approve any communications of a sensitive nature.

Confidentiality

Ensure that all discussions within the SAC remain in confidence. Fully briefing new committee members on confidentiality.

Information and Communication Technology

Must have a good understanding of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and have the technology to support ICT.

Nov 2023

His Majesty The King thanks Royal Navy submariners and families for their service during special visit



His Majesty King Charles III recognised the dedication of Royal Navy submariners when he visited the home of the UK Submarine Service on Thursday, September 19, 2024. The King met with dozens of serving submariners and their families at Coulport, part of HM Naval Base Clyde, taking the opportunity to thank them for their service on behalf of the nation.

Welcomed on-site by First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Ben Key KCB CBE, His Majesty received the Royal Salute before being greeted by senior members of the Royal Navy. The event marked the first time that His Majesty has visited the Naval Base as Head of The Armed Forces, although he has been to the military site in 2011 and 2013 as, The Prince of Wales. "His Majesty's visit, his first here as Commander-in-Chief of the British Armed Forces, acknowledges the valuable service of our submariners," said Commodore Paul Dunn OBE, Commodore of the Submarine Service.

"The Royal Navy's unbroken 55-year record of Continuous At Sea Deterrence is a tremendous source of pride, showcasing the skill, professionalism, and dedication of our defence enterprise. "This remarkable national endeavour, entrusted to us since 1969, has seen our submariners and their families make significant sacrifices in the defence of our country."

As well as meeting with Royal Navy submariners and their families, The King also took time to visit one of the Vanguard-class submarines which deliver the nuclear deterrent. He was piped onboard before being shown the Control Room where he chatted with crew members about their roles and thanked them for their commitment. His Majesty was also shown some of the living areas onboard, including the bunk space and galley. Before leaving the vessel, he visited the Senior Rates' Mess where he met a few more of the ship's company and signed the visitors' book. During his visit The King met with a group of Gold Deterrent Pin holders, giving his personal thanks for their outstanding contribution. Royal Navy Deterrent Patrol pins are awarded to submariners for their contribution to the Continuous At Sea Deterrent. There are three levels of achievement: pewter, silver, and gold. Gold is awarded to those submariners who have spent the greatest amount of time under the waves.

Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Longhurst was among the submariners who were lucky enough to bring their family members to meet The King. "Meeting The King with my wife and shipmates today was a truly special moment, marking the culmination of my service as a Royal Navy submariner. It has been a challenging but fulfilling 23 years, seven of which have been underwater," said Chief Longhurst. "His Majesty's visit today not only highlights the importance of the job we do in keeping the nation safe, but it also emphasises the invaluable support of our loved ones who stand by us through every deployment. Our families are the unsung heroes and today recognises that at the highest level."

The geographic position of a Vanguard-class submarine on patrol is a secret not shared with the majority of the crew. While at sea, submariners have little contact with the outside world. However, one of the most important links with home is the arrival of the "Family Gram", a 120-word, one-way message that arrives weekly. Patrolling submariners will also receive a snapshot of local and international news stories, as well as sporting results – all of which are vetted by the Commanding Officer. Submarine crews operate a shift pattern called a "watch bill". Most will spend six-hours on watch and then have six-hours to eat, sleep, exercise, and relax. As a result, sleep is limited to approximately four-hour segments. Despite their hectic work schedule, submariners still find time to relax and entertain themselves, with free time on patrol spent watching movies, taking part in regular quiz nights, horse racing nights, computer game tournaments, board games and even the occasional crazy golf competition. The Dreadnought-class submarines – which will also be based at Clyde – are set to pick-up the baton from the current Vanguard-class boats in the early 2030s. Millions of pounds are being invested at HM Naval Base Clyde in preparation for their arrival. Commodore Sharon Malkin ADC, Naval Base Commander Clyde, said: "HM Naval Base Clyde has supported the UK's Deterrent submarines since 1968. The One Clyde team on base is a collaboration of serving naval personnel, veterans, civil servants, and industry partners – many of whom are part of the local community. His Majesty's visit to the Clyde today is a tremendous honour for all of us involved."

This transformation and investment at HMNB Clyde, along with the ongoing commitment of Royal Navy Submariners and their families, civilian workers, and industry partners, ensures that the UK's longest ever sustained military operation will continue to keep our country and NATO allies safe for generations to come.

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

DISCLAIMER

This Newsletter is published by the Submariners Association and is © 2024. The opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor, the Submariners Association, the MoD, or the Submarine Service unless otherwise stated. The Submariners Association may not agree with the opinions expressed in this Newsletter but encourages publication as a matter of interest. Nothing printed may be construed as policy or an official announcement unless so stated. Otherwise, the Submariners Association accepts no liability on any issue in this Newsletter.

Cover Picture: HIS MAJESTY THE KING THANKS ROYAL NAVY SUBMARINERS & FAMILIES FOR THEIR SERVICE

NEW & RE-JOINING MEMBERS 1st July 2024 to 30th September 2024

No Report on New & Rejoining Members is currently available but I expect to reintroduce this feature in future issues but probably in a different format to previously. Meanwhile it might be useful consider the Membership Numbers of The Submarine Family as recently reported at the 24th Annual General Meeting of The Society of the Friends of the Submarine Museum:

The Submarine Family

As of June 2024 the TSF Numbers were:

2,372 Members

49.8% Veterans

23.8% Family

22.4% Serving

4% Admin Team

Waterfront take up of Membership is somewhat disappointing with efforts being made to persuade Serving Submariners and their families of the benefits. Needless to say we recommend Membership of the TSF to all Serving and Retired Submariners as well as retaining standalone Friends membership in order to maximise our potential.

Friends of the Submarine Museum

The current (2024) Membership is 911 Members with 35 new joined independently in the year and 11 new Members joined via The Submarine Family (TSF).

This compares with 2023 when there were 897 Members with 53 joined independently and 68 via TSF.

Thus overall total Friends Membership has increased over the last couple of years with new joiners via TSF and with independent joiners direct to the Friends. Healthy however new Members via TSF is well down.

The Submariners Association

Gary Strange tells me the current Membership – i.e. those Full Members registered on the SA Website – is now only 1,052. This is very disappointing - bearing in mind that in February 2022 there were 1,576 Full Members listed with a further 83 New and Rejoining Members to be processed. It is appreciated that at least 150 Members (probably more) have 'Crossed the Bar' since February 2022 but there are, somewhat in excess of 500 Members (30% of the 2022 Membership) who appear to have gone missing! It is likely that most of these still believe they are still Members of the Association but have not (or cannot) Register on the Association Website.

How can this be sorted out? Well - Branch Membership Secretaries must check with their all Branch Members to encourage them to Register on the Website. If any of their Members are not 'On-Line' or are not 'Computer literate' then Membership Secretaries need to contact the National Membership Secretary and make sure they can be Registered.

SUBMARINE & SUBMARINER LOSSES OF WWII

JULY 1944

Seven Submariners are reported to have died in July 1944. Three of them died whilst serving as 'Liaison Personnel' in two Allied Submarines both of which were sunk with all hands by 'friendly aircraft' in 'blue on blue' misidentification incidents. One died in an accident whilst undergoing Chariot training in Scotland and three died as a result of illness.

One member of the crew of the Submarine Depot Ship **HMS AMBROSE** at Dundee is reported to have died on 4th July 1944. He was:

L/Sto Arthur Joseph Blake P/KX 831152

Arthur Blake was born in Carraghduff, Mayo, County Leitrim, Ireland on 8th August 1913 and he was the son of Arthur Laurence and Winifred M Blake (nee Hopkins). Thirty one year old Arthur Blake died in the RN Auxiliary Hospital at Kingseat, Fife from infective

endocarditis. He is commemorated at the Glasnevin (Prospect) Cemetery on the Screen Wall, Panel 1 in Ireland and is buried in the St. Patrick's Sec. Grave H.K.133.5.

Two Royal Navy personnel serving as the 'Liaison' team in the Free French Submarine **LA PERLE** died on 8th July 1944 when the Submarine was sunk with all hands in the Atlantic. While returning from refitting in the United States, LA PERLE was mistaken for a U-boat by an aircraft from the British Merchant Aircraft Carrier **EMPIRE MacCALLUM** and was sunk. The Liaison personnel were:

Temp Lt Edward Walter Zappert RNVR

He was the son of Walter Ben and Emily Zappert and the twenty nine year old husband of Lilian Eileen Georgina Zappert, of Wembley, Middlesex. Edward Zappert is commemorated on the Chatham Naval War Memorial on Panel No. 79 Column No. 2.

PO Tel George Mitchell D/JX 134504

He was the thirty year old husband of Lily Mitchell, of Plymouth and he is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval War Memorial on Panel No. 88, Column No. 3.

An Able Seaman serving in **HMS MEDWAY II** died on 21st July 1944. He was:

AB Francis E Bailey P/JX 171814

Francis Bailey died in HM Hospital Ship MAINE from an abscess of the kidney resulting in peritonitis. He was the son of Mrs. E. M. Bailey, of Ford, Wiltshire and he is buried in the Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery in Malta in the Protestant Section (Men's), Plot F. Coll. Grave 124.

One Member of the team of 'Chariot' operators based at **HMS VARBEL** was killed in an accident on 26th July 1944. He was:

Sub Lt Keith Vivian Frank Harris, RNVR

Keith Harris was the twenty year son of Lieutenant Colonel Frank Harris and Rosamund Kathleen Harris. A volunteer for 'special service' he was the No.1 Crewman of the 'Chariot No. LXXVII' and was killed when he accidentally hit the keel of HMS BONAVENTURE whilst making a dived approach. The No. 2 of the 'Chariot' (Able Seaman Hutton) managed to bring the 'Chariot' to the surface but the Keith Harris was already dead. He is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval War Memorial on Panel No. 88 Column No. 1 and on the 12 Submarine Flotilla Memorial at Rothesay on the Isle of Bute.

One Rating serving as Communications Liaison in the **Russian Submarine B1 (ex HMS SUNFISH)** is reported to have died on 27th July 1944 when Submarine B1 was sunk in error by RAF aircraft. He was:

PO Tel Sidney Ravensdale J87505

He was born in Leek, Staffordshire on 24th February 1902 and was the son of Richar and Grace Hannah Ravensdale. A Royal Fleet Reservist Sidney Ravensdale had previously served in Submarines from 30th December 1927 to 23rd February 1932. He was recalled for further service in Submarines at the time of the Munich Crisis in 1938 and again on the outbreak of WWII in 1939. On 27th July 1944 he was serving in the Russian manned Submarine B1 as 'Liaison crew'. B1 was the ex-HMS SUNFISH which had been transferred to the Russian Navy and was en-route to Russia. Forty two year old Sidney Ravensdale was the husband of Violet Ruby Ravensdale (nee Jay) and he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval War Memorial in Panel No. 88 Column No. 3.

One member of the crew of Submarine **HMS TRIBUNE** is reported to have died on 28th July 1944. He was:

L/Sea James Hagan C/SSX 14034.

It is reported that he died in the in the Newcastle on Tyne General Hospital from an abscess on the lung. At the time his submarine, HMS TRIBUNE, was refitting in the Swan Hunter Shipyard at Wallsend. Thirty year old James Hagan was born in Gateshead, County Durham on 1st October 1913 and was the son of Mr & Mrs Hagan (nee Brennan). He is buried in the Tynemouth (Preston) Cemetery.

AUGUST 1944

No Submarines were lost in August 1944, but two submariners are reported to have died. They were:

One Member of the crew of Submarine **HMS SCEPTRE** is reported to have died on 1st August 1944. He was:

AB George Dunkey O/N P/JX 394427

George Dunkey was accidentally lost overboard and was presumed to have drowned whilst HMS SCEPTRE was at Loch Cairnbawn in Western Scotland. George Dunkey was born in Wednesbury, Staffordshire on 9th March 1924 and he was the son of Mr. F Dunkey and Mrs. Matilda E Dunkey. George, who was trained as a lathe operator, joined the Royal Navy at HMS GLENDOWER on 9th November 1942. It is not known when he joined submarines. It is likely that SCEPTRE was at Loch Cairnbawn (Port HHZ) for training in towing X-Craft when the accident occurred. George Dunkey of 54, Ashmore Lake, Short Heath Willenshall (who was not recovered) is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval War Memorial on Panel No 82 Column No1.

One Chief Petty Officer serving at **HMS DOLPHIN** is reported to have died on 6th August 1944. He was:

Chief Yeo of Sigs George Henry Pusey O/N 214121

George Pusey was born in Haggerston in London on 17th March 1885, and he was the son of Henry and Mary Ann Pusey. Fifty-nine-year-old George Pusey died in the Royal Naval Hospital at Haslar from pneumonia and Paget's Disease. He is buried in the Royal Naval Cemetery at Clayhall in Gosport in Plot E 66 15..

SEPTEMBER 1944

No Submarines were lost but three Submariners are reported to have died in September 1944. They are:

One Officer Member of the Operational Crew was lost overboard from the 'X' Craft X-24 off Norway on Saturday 9th September 1944. He was:

Sub Lt Derek Norman Purdy, RNZNVR

He was the son of Norman Henry and Elsie Mary Purdy of Remuera, Auckland, New Zealand. Whilst on tow, by HM Submarine SCEPTRE, for the attack on shipping at Bergen (Operation HECKLE) one Officer of the Operational Crew was lost overboard from the 'X' Craft X-24. Derek Purdy was twenty-two-year-old when he was lost. He was replaced by one of the Passage Crew to allow the attack to go ahead. Derek Purdy is commemorated on the New Zealand Naval War Memorial at Devonport, Auckland, North Shore City, New Zealand on Panel No. 7 and on the 12th Submarine Flotilla Memorials at Rothesay on the Isle of Bute and at Kylescu.

One member of the crew of Submarine **HMS SCEPTRE** is reported to have died on Monday 11th September 1944. He was:

AB Alexander Archer Bruce Douglas C/JX 234846

Alexander Douglas was born in Coleraine, County Londonderry on 1st July 1922, and he was the son of James McGregor Douglas and Helen Douglas of Coleraine, Co. Londonderry. It is not reported when he was drafted to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS FORTH (3rd Submarine Flotilla) at the Holy Loch 'for Submarine HMS SCEPTRE'. Twenty-two-year-old Alexander Douglas is reported to have died onboard HMS SCEPTRE. He was sleeping in his hammock just clear of a hydraulic ram when the ram moved across at full power causing severe head injuries and killing him instantly. At the time HMS SCEPTRE was lying off Bergen, Norway, having just towed the X-Craft X-24 there for a raid on the Floating Dock at Bergen 'Operation HECKLE'. X-24 was successfully recovered for the tow back to Scotland after the Operation. Able Seaman Douglas was buried at sea off Bergen. He is commemorated on the Chatham Naval War Memorial on Panel No. 75 Column No. 2

One Member of the Crew of **Submarine H34** is reported to have died on 20th September 1944. He was:

AB Leslie Mawson P/JX 397926

Leslie Mawson was the twenty-year-old son of Thomas Gilbert Mawson (a gardener) and Agnes Mawson. It is understood that he died at home from coal gas poisoning having committed suicide

Bradford Observer - Saturday 23 September 1944

Shipley Seaman Gassed Himself

A verdict that "Death was due to from coal-gas poisoning, self-administered while suffering from mental" depression," was returned by the jury at an inquest at Shipley yesterday on

Ordinary Seaman Leslie Mawson (20). of 14, West Royd Road. Shipley. Mawson had been ill since May and had recently returned from hospital at Liverpool. He was suffering from a duodenal ulcer, which brought about a nervous condition.

Leslie Mawson is commemorated at the Bradford Crematorium on Panel No 1.

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

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'.

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.

Regards

Gary

THE ONLINE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE (OBOR) - AN UPDATE

A reminder that 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 lives 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 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 its 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' Deputy Treasurer (Peter Jeanneret) has been responsible for collating the data that is now contained within OBOR. This started some two years 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 which is a continuing process. 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 nearly 6,000 names in the OBOR for whom some 600 stories have been completed and 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 or friends/colleagues 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."

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 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. An 'Invitation to Tender' was sent out to prospective contractors. Replies have been received and are being reviewed for suitability.

OBOR CODE PLAQUE INSTALLED AT EMBANKMENT MEMORIAL

Part of the funds raised to build the Submariner Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum is being used to provide plaques for other submarine memorials linking them by QR code to the Online Submarine Book of Remembrance. Chief amongst these is a specially commissioned bronze plaque for the National Submarine War Memorial on the Embankment. This was created by the renowned submarine artist Georgina Bown and was put in place on Friday 20th September 2024.



The OBOR QR Plaque



Spellcheck



Preparation



Installation



Job done – Georgina Bown (Sculptor) and Tom Herman (Trustee)

HM NAVAL BASE, CLYDE & RN SUBMARINE NEWS

NEW ACCOMMODATION PLANS FOR HM NAVAL BASE CLYDE

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has submitted an application for planning permission to Argyll and Bute Council for the accommodation. A decision on the proposal is expected from the council's planning officers by late November.

Plans have been revealed for 639 accommodation units for military personnel at Faslane Naval Base. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has submitted an application for planning permission to Argyll and Bute Council for the accommodation. The units would be built on a site of former buildings, previously known as the Officers' Wardroom, which have been demolished. A decision on the proposal is expected from the council's planning officers by late November, and the public can now view the plans and submit feedback.

A design and access statement said: "The proposals also include associated service infrastructure and engineering works that involve ground reprofiling, culvert diversion for the existing watercourse, drainage works, new road and landscaping. "The proposed buildings follow the MoD standardized designs and are set to four stories in height to balance the residential scale of the development for users and the visual impact of the development externally. "The ground reprofiled platforms allow landscaped interest at ground level and help break the building rooflines and massing when viewed from afar.

"Demolition, ground reprofiling and security requirements have necessitated removal of existing trees. Informed through the preliminary environmental assessment, landscape design will seek to mitigate this loss and provide an element of biodiversity net gain where practicable." A planning statement by agents Zander Planning Ltd, also submitted as part of the application, added: "The proposed development involves developing the site extending to 1.8 hectares for the erection of single living accommodation (SLA) units to accommodate 639 military personnel and associated access and engineering/infrastructure works to replace the previous SLA units on the site. "The previous SLA units were not fit for purpose and were uninhabitable given their age, condition, and lack of facilities (no hot water or heating). The buildings have now been demolished.

"Of the circa 600 beds being constructed approximately half will be used by persons already on the base that have been temporarily rehoused within the base as part of the demolition works. "The circa

300 bed spaces that are in addition to the bed spaces previously on site are for trainees that will be based at Faslane to undergo training and learning. "The proposed development seeks to redevelop the site to enhance the quality of the interior space to occupants by providing improved living standards through better daylighting and space standards."

SUBMARINER SUPERSTARS RECOGNISED AT ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT

(ROYAL NAVY MEDIA RELEASE Monday, 23

September 2024)

The Superstars of the Submarine Service celebrated their annual awards night recently when the Submarine Oscars returned to Glasgow.

The glitzy, black tie, event was held at the Glasgow Hilton on September 15th. Submariners, their loved-ones, and those who have gone the extra mile to support the Silent Service, were recognised for their professionalism, leadership, and commitment.

In a personal video from the professional head of the Royal Navy, First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Ben Key, those gathered were thanked for their tireless dedication and vital role in maintaining the Royal Navy's strategic edge from beneath the waves.

Some thirteen different awards were presented during the night, each of them highlighting the unique and outstanding efforts of the submarine community.

The attendees at the Hollywood-themed event were given the move-star treatment, with some fine dining, a thoughtfully curated gift bag, and musical entertainment from the band 'Ready to Go'.

"Attending this year's annual Submarine Awards ceremony has been an extraordinary experience," said Commodore Paul Dunn, Commodore of the Submarine Service.

"The dedication, bravery, and exceptional performance of our submarine crews, families, and wider submarine enterprise is nothing short of inspiring. The energy and enthusiasm in the room was palpable and the recognition of such outstanding achievements reinforces the incredible spirit that defines our Submarine Service.

"This event highlights the excellence and commitment that drive our mission forward and I am immensely proud of everyone involved."

The following awards were presented during the Submarine Oscars:

The Orpheus Award went to the Submarine Escape, Rescue, Abandonment, and Survival training facility (SMERAS). Sponsored by RB Safety Consultants, the Orpheus Award is given to the team who have made a significant contribution to submarine safety.

The Naval Families Federation Award was presented to Coxswain Andrew Bullingham. This

award is given to the Naval Families Federation advocate who helps enable naval families.

The Royal Navy Family & People Support Award. Shelley Gilmour received this award for those who have provided the highest level of support to the submarine community.

The Dean Rodgers MBE Submarine Family Award was presented to Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Dave O'Neill. Sponsored by the Submarine Family, this goes to the individual who has made a significant impact to the wellbeing of submariner families.

The Molyneux Award was presented to AB Amy Stephens. Sponsored by FAST Training Services LTD, this award goes to the SSN streamed trainee who has displayed the qualities and ethos of the submarine cadre and stood above their peers during initial training.

The Submariners Association Award went to Chef Jack Whitehead. This award, sponsored by the Submariners Association, is given to the SSBN streamed trainee who has displayed the qualities and ethos of the submarine cadre and stood above their peers during initial training.

The Valiant Trophy was awarded to HMS VANGUARD (Gold). This Rolls-Royce sponsored trophy is in recognition of the submarine crew which excelled under the demands of Operational Sea Training.

The Conqueror Trophy went to HMS ASTUTE. Sponsored by Thales, this was given for Operational Excellence within the underwater battlespace.

The Submarine Engineering Excellence Award was given to HMS TRIUMPH. This award is presented to the crew which demonstrated engineering excellence in support of operations.

The Sovereign Bowl went to HMS VANGUARD (Gold) crew. This is awarded to the Marine Engineering department demonstrating excellence throughout Manoeuvring Room Training.

The Distinguished Achievement Award went to Engineering Technician (WESM) Daniel Sillery for representing the Submarine Service admirably as a RN Esports team member during a high-profile event hosted in Washington DC.

The Armourers and Brasiers Submarine Prize went to Commander Bob Church. Sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Armourers and Brasiers, this goes to the individual deemed to have made the greatest contribution to the sustainability of the Submarine Flotilla.

The Thomas Tunnock Award was presented to Warrant Officer 1 Neil Aitken. Sponsored by Sir Boyd Tunnock CBE, the grandson of Thomas Tunnock and owner of Tunnock's confectionery, this award is given to those who provided the

greatest influence on morale on board thereby generating the required component of Operational Capability.



Winners from this year's Submarine Awards with Commodore Paul Dunn (centre), Commodore of the Submarine Service.



WO1 Neil Aitken (right) receives a selection of goodies from Commodore Dunn, part of the Sir Thomas Tunnock Award.



One of the Submarine Oscars



Commander Bob Church after receiving the Armourers and Brasiers Submarine prize.



Commander Dunn presents Shelley Gilmour with the Royal Navy Family & People Support Award for providing the highest level of support to the submarine community.

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

Kylescu Plaque Rededication

From the official page of the Lord-Lieutenant of Sutherland - Major General Patrick Marriott

A ceremony took place at Kylescu on Sunday 22nd September 2024 to mark the 81st anniversary of Operation SOURCE (the midget submarine attack launched from Kylescu on the German battleship, the Tirpitz, in 1943) and to inaugurate a new bronze "Roll of Honour", information boards and landscaping at the site. The service of inauguration was led by The Venerable John Green CB, himself a retired Chaplain to the Fleet and now living in Sutherland.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of HM King Charles III, HM Naval Base Clyde, the Sutherland and Inverness Branches of the Royal Naval Association, the Submariners' Association, the Friends of the Submarine Museum, We Remember Submarines,

and the Arctic Convoy Museum. Mr Adam Barnes played a lament and Mr Graeme Scott played "Waters of Kylescu" to finish the service.



The Refurbished Memorial

There were two sons of VC winners present: Paul Magennis, son of James "Mick" Magennis VC and John Miers, son of Rear Admiral Sir Anthony Miers VC, KBE CB DSO*. Also present was Iain Russell, late MD of J K Galbraith in Inverness, and grandson of Commander Reginald Hayter RN, who lost his life in the HMS THETIS in Liverpool Bay in 1939. The Lord-Lieutenant is himself the son of a wartime submarine Commanding Officer (Captain Sam Marriott DSO DSC RN).

The refurbishment project has been led by Commander Tim Honnor RN (Retd) with support from many others, but especially Reay Forest Estate on whose land the Memorial stands. Mr Neil Macdonald DL, of Reay Forest Estate, welcomed everyone to the commemoration. Sonia Cameron Jacks, author of "X-Craft Hero of the Tirpitz Raid" and who started the initiative to refurbish the site also attended and laid a posy of flowers in memory of Commander Donald Cameron VC RNR - his VC being one of two won on the raid (as a Lieutenant). The other VC was won by Rear Admiral Godfrey Place VC CB CVO DSC (also as a Lieutenant). A lunch was held afterwards at the Inchnadamph Lodge where Paul Magennis read out some of his

father's letters following the award of his VC in 1945.



The new Information Boards

The memorial at Kylescu, which commemorates the remarkable World War Two mini submarine operation to attack the German Battleship, the Tirpitz, was re-dedicated at a short service at 1130 on Sunday 22 September. From 1942-1945, the waters round Kylescu were used for the training of midget submarine and chariot crews and it was from Kylescu that in September 1943, the daring raid to blow up the German Battleship Tirpitz was mounted. This involved towing six Midget Submarines some 1,000 miles to the north of Norway. Two of these mini submarines got under the battleship and were able to detonate their charges, severely damaging the ship. The Commanding Officers of these two mini submarines, Donald Cameron and Godfrey Place, were awarded the Victoria Cross for their bravery.

Over the past year the project to install two new information boards, replace the bronze memorial facing and to re-landscape the whole site has been ongoing.



From L to R: Commander Tim Honnor, two ratings from HMS Clyde, Mr Andy Knox (Submariners Association), the Lord-Lieutenant, Mr Paul Magennis, Petty Officer Hogg and one rating from HMS Clyde, the Venerable John Green CB

NOTE: The details of the Chariot And X-Craft Crew members listed on the Kylescu Plaque were checked for correctness by the Friends of The Submarine Museum OBOR team before the new Plaque and Information Boards were installed. Several errors were corrected and some additional data was included. There is another Plaque commemorating those Members of the 12th Submarine Flotilla lost in Service which is sited on the quay side at Rothesay on the Isle of Bute

HMS AGAMEMNON 'ROLL OUT' AND 'LAUNCH'

HMS AGAMEMNON - the sixth of the seven 'Astute' Class Submarines - being built by BAE Submarines in their Barrow in Furness Shipyard – was 'Rolled Out' of the Devonshire Dock Hall at Barrow last Thursday (3rd October) and was lowered into the Devonshire Dock via the Ship Lift last Friday (4th October) and is now berthed alongside at the Wet Dock Quay preparing for 'final fitting out' and 'Power Range Testing'. The seventh and final 'Astute' Class boat -HMS AGINCOURT - remains under construction inside the Devonshire Dock Hall (DDH) alongside the first of the new Class of four SSBNs – HMS DREADNOUGHT.

(AGAMEMNON Photos Courtesy Ed Downer)

Leaving the DDH



Outside at Last



The Side View



On The Ship Lift



In the Water at last



Safely Alongside at Wet Dock Quay

AUKUS Navy Chiefs strengthen ties during

The Chiefs of Navy for Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States have strengthened their naval ties during a visit to HMAS STIRLING in Western Australia.

Naval News Staff 23 Jul 2024

Australian Department of Defence press release
Australia's Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond AO, [RAN](#), hosted his international counterparts, the US Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Lisa Franchetti, and the UK First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Ben Key KCB CBE ADC, ahead of the Indian Ocean Defence and Security 2024 Conference in Perth this week. The visit is the first time Admiral Franchetti and Admiral Key have visited HMAS STIRLING, which will play a role in Australia's future fleet of nuclear-powered but conventionally armed submarines.

The three chiefs received a tour of the base's facilities, followed by a meet-and-greet with Australian submariners on-board a [Collins-class](#) submarine. They also signed a Statement of Intent for Lethality, which documents the three navies collective commitment to the enhanced lethality of their surface combatant, and submarine fleets. The visit finished with a showcase of the Royal Australian Navy's most contemporary and cutting-edge autonomous systems capabilities.

"Today my counterparts and I reaffirmed our philosophy of putting our partnership into action and continue to build on the historic friendship between our navies. Our navies operate on shared behaviours, shared values, and a shared commitment to the success and security of the Indo-Pacific region. Working together is how we get the best outcomes for our navies and nations, through personnel exchange programs and operational interchangeability at sea. Only this month we had our first Royal Australian Navy officers graduating from the Royal Navy's Nuclear Reactor Course. This year our technicians have been training and learning unique skills with the US Navy in Guam and embedded on-board the US Submarine Tender, USS EMORY S LAND (AS 39)."

Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, Chief of the Royal Australian Navy



first trilateral visit to HMAS STIRLING

Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy, Admiral Lisa Franchetti on the gangway of HMAS DESCHAMPEAUX at HMAS STIRLING, Western Australia.

"AUKUS is a once in a generation opportunity to bring together the exceptional capabilities of Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. We will continue to build on our relationship, strengths, and interoperability, while at the same time uplifting the industrial bases of our three countries. We will bring to bear the innovative spirit of our three nations while significantly bolstering our posture in the Indo-Pacific, contributing to security and stability, and maintaining the rules-based international order in this critical region and around the globe."

Admiral Franchetti, US Navy's Chief of Naval Operations



Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AO, RAN, with Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy, Admiral Lisa Franchetti and First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, Royal Navy, Admiral Sir Ben Key, KCB, CBE, ADC, signing the Lethality Statement of Intent at Sir James Stirling Mess, HMAS STIRLING in Western Australia. (Royal Australian Navy photo)

"Building on longstanding, deep-rooted relationships, and reflecting the unique level of trust and cooperation between our countries, we celebrate the success of AUKUS thus far and look forward to continuing the collective delivery on our commitment. AUKUS is a strategically important capability collaboration, allowing us to pool expertise to accelerate the development of cutting-edge defence capabilities in a way that we could not do alone. Alongside the USN, the RN is committed to ensuring the RAN can build on its proven experience of operating conventional powered submarines to be nuclear capable as well. We have recently welcomed RAN personnel onto our nuclear courses and to serve in our Astute class submarines and we look forward to sharing the next generation of SSNs in a collaborative build programme which will shape our partnership for many decades to come."

Admiral Ben Key, UK Royal Navy's First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff

Threat from China prompts Canada to seek place in AUKUS security partnership

13th September 2024



Australia acquiring nuclear-powered attack submarines is one of the initial aims of the agreement (Picture: MOD)

Canada is holding talks with Britain, Australia and the United States about being part of an expanded AUKUS security partnership amid China's expansion in the Asia Pacific region.

Defence Minister Bill Blair said Ottawa wanted to help counter Beijing's growing military influence in that part of the world. Canada wants to join a second pillar of AUKUS that will collaborate on new military technologies, including artificial intelligence and quantum computing, however no specific details have been released at the moment.

"There have been important discussions about processes and platforms on a project-specific basis on where other nations, including Japan and ourselves, might participate," Mr Blair said. He was speaking in Tokyo where he met his Japanese counterpart, Minoru Kihara, as Japan is also considering joining the programme. "I would respectfully wait until they've come to their determination, but I'm very optimistic," he said of the three founding members

The initial phase of AUKUS involves the three co-founders – Australia, the UK and the US – working on nuclear submarine technology for Australia. Mr Blair, who was on his second trip to Japan as defence minister, arrived in Tokyo from South Korea, which is also in talks about a role in AUKUS. He said Canada's defence commitments were expanding at home and overseas, and so the government was expanding its military spending. "Next year, my defence budget will rise by 27% over this year. And... in the next three or four years our defence spending will triple," he explained. Mr Blair and Mr Kihara also discussed the Chinese interventions into Japanese territory that last month prompted Tokyo to lodge protests with Beijing

Devonport No.9 Dock Upgrade Complete

September 12, 2024



The Royal Navy's nuclear submarine fleet will undergo faster and more efficient maintenance following the reopening of 9 Dock at Devonport, the largest dry dock in Western Europe. This £200 million refurbishment, carried out by Babcock International Group, will ensure the UK's Vanguard Class submarines can complete their deep maintenance periods more quickly, allowing them to redeploy faster. The upgrades form part of the government's ongoing commitment to maintain the nation's Continuous-At-Sea Nuclear Deterrent (CASD), according to a Ministry of Defence press release.

At the opening ceremony in Plymouth, Maria Eagle MP, Minister for Defence Procurement and Industry, spoke of the critical role of Devonport and 9 Dock in supporting the Vanguard fleet.

"The Vanguard fleet is at the heart of deterring our adversaries and keeping the UK safe. This government is committed to a 'triple-lock' on our nuclear and to bolstering national security through crucial refurbishments such as this one," she said.

Devonport, spread over more than 650 acres, has been a crucial naval base for the Royal Navy since 1691. The facility boasts 15 dry docks, 25 tidal berths, and a workforce of over 7,000, contributing significantly to Plymouth's economy and supporting around 400 local businesses. The project to upgrade 9 Dock employed 1,250 people, including 900 local workers, and 25 apprentices, highlighting its economic and strategic importance. David Lockwood, CEO of Babcock, stressed the importance of the project, stating, *"Supporting the Continuous at Sea Deterrent is the most important thing we do. The huge investment and increase in digital technology in this submarine facility ensures the UK has a sovereign, fit-for-purpose, deep maintenance capability now and in the future."*

The upgraded facility includes advanced mechanical handling systems to improve productivity and reduce maintenance times. This ensures that the four Vanguard Class ballistic missile submarines can continue to fulfil their critical role in protecting the UK, remaining operational 24/7. The Ministry of Defence reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining

the UK's nuclear deterrent with plans to build four new nuclear submarines and continue upgrading its current fleet.

Devonport Dockyard expansion plans will see historic buildings demolished

The plans for Oceansgate are part of the next phase of the 'revitalisation' of the upper dockland area but have sparked outrage.



Plans to knock down two dockyard buildings to make room for industrial units at Devonport Dockyard have been submitted. The plans for Oceansgate are part of the next phase of the 'revitalisation' of the upper dockland area but have sparked outrage.

Volunteers at Devonport Naval Heritage Centre called the proposed demolition "senseless cultural vandalism" which "treads all over Plymouth's naval heritage". But volunteers who run the centre, which records the role the dockyard played supporting the navy during wartime, said tearing down the buildings

will mean they lose a cafe, toilets, exhibits space, workshops, a lecture room and most of its car park. The council though said the demolition is necessary to make room for the expansion of the Oceansgate freeport area - and stressed the Naval Heritage Centre does not have to close and can remain in other buildings.

The council said it is preparing to submit a planning application to extend the Oceansgate complex, stressing this has been in the pipeline for almost a decade. A council spokesperson said: "We are looking to finally take ownership of these buildings for a redevelopment programme that has been on the cards since 2015 under the City Deal - an agreement between the Government, the MoD and the council.

"The plan is to demolish these buildings - which are not listed - to pave the way for new light industrial units for the next phase of Oceansgate. Other buildings being used by the centre remain. As part of the deal the council is paying £367,000 compensation to the Defence Infrastructure Organisation for the two buildings and parking that we require to deliver the next phase of development."

The spokesperson said Oceansgate has proved to be "a phenomenally successful location" and this next phase will form part of the freeport tax site and added: *"We have already had interest from companies looking to move to a location with links to some of the biggest marine companies in the UK such as Babcock Marine and Princess Yachts International."*

AROUND THE BRANCHES

How we raise funds for the NORFOLK BRANCH

"Like any other organisation, a continual supply cash is the necessary fuel in the engine to keep our branch viable and able to offer whatever our members feel helps us chug along without problem. In Norfolk we have to continually consider how we can raise funds and many inventive ideas are used to keep our coffers in a positive state."

We hold a one prize raffle at our monthly meetings held at Eaton Golf Club this is normally for a bottle of spirits & if each member attending buys £5 of tickets we find this helps to boost the coffers by £35/40 after taking out the cost of the bottle & how do we make this much well by the cheapest bottle you can or at least one on offer.

Also once a year we have a family & friends BBQ at Rose Farm in South Norfolk hosted by Bill & Sal

Martin. Pet dogs are also allowed their useful for hoovering up the burnt offerings etc.

Victuals are all supplied, anything needing to be chilled, beer lager wine is put in a wheelbarrow topped up with ice this can also be wheeled round to members who are getting a little wobbly either through drink or age, there are also various spirits available including the bottle of gunpowder rum. A good amount of various types of meat are supplied so - veggies stay at home - various BBQ bits to go with the meats salads sauces buns etc then what doesn't get eaten goes into the freezer.

Members are also welcome to camp overnight if they wish enabling everyone to have a good session there is plenty of room in the paddocks for caravans campers etc. This year a certain Chief Tiff initials J.T. brought a brand new camp bed when we tried put it up later that evening it was far to technical so we failed well what do you expect from Mech. & a

Tiff combination we were a little oiled though so it was off to a guest bedroom for him.



Once members are fed & watered & a little sozzled we then have the two Amigos go round with the money bucket, branch members are then invited to put in the bucket what they think the repast was worth, some are reasonably generous a few less so but you quickly find out who are the cheapskates are yes we know your names!! The two Amigos look like a pair of Mafioso hoodlums (please see their mugshots) & they are past masters at extorting money from the hapless or inebriated.



Then there is also a raffle where you can get rid of all those things that are taking up space at home I managed to shift a bottle Tequila that I have had for over 30 years. well matured but I had never found the occasion to drink it don't know why I bought it really must have been a good idea at the time. Also this year someone gave an old camera case but no camera a really generous donation we thought. Then the dreaded box 'the mystery prize' which sometimes contains something & sometimes not!!

The bucket collection & raffle this year made £350 by raising money this way we have now voted to cease paying our yearly subs. All this money helps to subsidise our trips to various functions the Sub. Museum, Arboretum etc.

P.S. We are also open to generous donations - all contributions gratefully received bank details on request.

Bill M.

EAST OF SCOTLAND BRANCH

With the kind permission of the Mess President HMS CALEDONIA WOs & SRs Mess, East of Scotland Branch held a BBQ on Saturday 14 September with 24 personnel in attendance.

The BBQ was a resounding success; old shipmates who are not able to attend the regular branch meetings due to work commitments were able to attend, with prizes donated for a raffle, with the Branch Treasurer 'Dodger Long' winning the booby prize of a bottle of sprite! We also took the opportunity for Up Spirits as we remember those shipmates that have crossed the bar and thankfully the forecast rain did not materialise.



A great afternoon/evening was had by all. Members from the West Riding Branch made the trip across the border to attend, Mark Pugh took the opportunity to further establish links with our

branch and presented the Branch Chair Del Briton with a plaque with plans rapidly developing for our branch to visit West Riding Branch. The plaque will be placed on the bulkhead as the Mess has kindly agreed to "Submariner Corner".

Our branch meets on the first Friday of every month; if you live in the area, please contact Alf Ramsey who is the Branch Secretary for further information SMAEOSB.SEC@OUTLOOK.COM

BARROW SUBMARINERS SUPPORT LOCAL CHARITIES

At their monthly Meeting on Tuesday 6th August 2024 Members of the Barrow in Furness Branch of the Submariners Association were joined Members of the Morecambe Bay Branch and by representatives of the Furness Group of 'Riding for the Disabled' (RDA) and 'St Mary's Hospice, Ulverston'. At the Meeting both organisations were presented with cheques for £500 to allow them to continue their excellent work.



Barrow Branch President Barrie Downer presenting a cheque for £500 to June Chapman of Furness RDA

The donations follow a recent decision taken at their 2024 AGM by the Barrow Branch to support local Charities. Three local Charities were chosen by Barrow SA Members to receive donations from their 'Charity Chest'.

The third Charity selected for a donation was the North-West Air Ambulance (NWAA) and Kate

O'Neil and Sandra Camaish were able to attend the October Branch Meeting Meeting to collect their cheque.

In exchange for their donations Branch Members learned something about the work of the Charities, the costs involved and heard that the funds were very welcome and would be put towards their important work.



Presentation of a Cheque for £500 to Heidi Bowron of St Mary's Hospice, Ulverston



Presentation of a Cheque for £500 to Kate O'Neil and Sandra Camaish of the North-West Air Ambulance Service

OTHER SUBMARINE NEWS

Australia signs \$1.4 billion deal to upgrade RAN submarines

By Reuters July 27, 2024

Australia said on Saturday it had signed a A\$2.2 billion (\$1.4 billion) four-year contract with state-owned submarine builder ASC to upgrade the navy's Collins class submarines. The "sustainment contract" is part of a government pledge to keep the diesel-

electric powered Collins-class fleet "a potent strike and deterrence capability", Defence Industry Minister Pat Conroy said in a statement.

The contract will be "directly ensuring job security for more than 1,100 highly skilled workers", with the work carried out in the towns of Henderson in Western Australia and Osborne in South Australia, Conroy said. Osborne is where ASC and Britain's

BAE Systems will jointly build Australia's fleet of nuclear-powered submarines, the core component of the 2021 AUKUS pact between Britain, the U.S. and Australia. Until that work begins later this decade, the shipyard is where much of the maintenance is performed on the existing Collins-class fleet. Conroy said it was part of the centre-left government's A\$4 to A\$5 billion commitment to the submarines, which are planned to operate into the 2040s.

Canada kicks off submarine tender after survey of global vendors

By Davud Pugliese

Sep 19 2024



Royal Canadian Navy Cdr. Meghan Coates (C) speaks to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (L) and Polish President Andrzej Duda (R) in the operations room of HMCS Regina at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt, in Esquimalt, Canada, on April 20, 2024. (Darryl Dyck/POOL/AFP via Getty Images)

VICTORIA, British Columbia — The Canadian military has formally begun its efforts to acquire a fleet of up to 12 conventionally powered submarines. The Canadian government has requested submarine builders submit information on their boats by Nov. 18 in what is seen as a first step in the eventual purchase. Canadian Defence Minister Bill Blair issued a statement Sept. 16 noting that submarines are crucial to maintaining the country's sovereignty. As an Arctic, Atlantic and Pacific Nation with the world's longest coastline, Canada needs a new fleet of submarines," Blair said. The current fleet of Victoria-class submarines operated by the Royal Canadian Navy will be decommissioned in the mid-2030s, he added. "To avoid any gap in Canadian submarine capabilities, Canada anticipates a contract award by 2028 with the delivery of the first replacement submarine no later than 2035," Blair noted in his message.

In a statement also released Sept. 16 on X, Blair said the purchase would involve acquiring up to 12

conventionally powered, under-ice capable submarines. No cost figures were released at this time. Canada is open to submarines that are currently in service or in production. The submarines would be capable of conducting "precision attacks" and would be equipped with heavyweight torpedoes, anti-ship missiles and long-range precision land attack missiles, according to the initial information provided to industry.

Blair said the request for information will also open the door for Canadian industry on in-service support, training and infrastructure for the new fleet. Canada does not build its own submarines so any boats will be constructed in another nation. Blair originally highlighted Canada's interest in new submarines on July 10 at the NATO summit in Washington but did not provide specific details at that time. Canadian government officials, however, have suggested that the submarine purchase could help Canada meet its goal of spending at least 2% of GDP on defence as required by NATO. Canada has been under increasing pressure from its allies to do more on defence.

To prepare for the acquisition the Royal Canadian Navy had already created the Canadian Patrol Submarine Project (CPSP), which was gathering information, and conducting an analysis of potential submarines capable of meeting the service's requirements. In 2023 the CPSP project team conducted initial engagements and fact finding with countries, companies, and navies that currently have or are in the process of building submarines that meet Canada's needs. The team has engaged with France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Spain, and Sweden. The request for information will allow Canada to receive specific information it needs to put together a bid package and supporting documents for the future purchase.

The four Victoria-class boats, originally known as the Upholder-class, were purchased second-hand from the U.K. Royal Navy. The first three Victoria-class submarines were accepted into Royal Canadian Navy service between 2000 and 2003. The fourth submarine suffered a fire in transit to Canada in 2004, which delayed its acceptance into RCN service until 2015. The submarines are currently undergoing various improvements and upgrades to keep them operating until the mid to late 2030s.

Updated Spearfish torpedo tested on Barrow-built submarine

1st August 2024

By [Daniel Pye@danipye](mailto:Daniel.Pye@danipye)

A Barrow-built Vanguard-class submarine has trialled the next generation of Spearfish weapons for the first time. The submarine conducted three days of Sea Acceptance Testing with the new weapons system off the coast of Scotland. It is the first time the next-generation Spearfish has been tested on a Vanguard-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine and means the boats are now able to meet the latest threats when at sea, according to the Royal Navy.

The trials involved the Spearfish engaging surface and submerged targets, enabling the boat's crew to operate the weapon, testing the ability to fire from the ballistic missile submarine's combat system and ensuring command and control over the weapon. It means both the Royal Navy's Astute-class and Vanguard-class submarines have completed the testing. The service has been using Spearfish for nearly 30 years, which is capable of destroying frigates, destroyers, large warships and hostile submarines. This modernised and improved variant – known as Spearfish Mod 1 – features a new warhead, a safer fuel system, a smarter electronic 'brain' and a fibre-optic guidance link with its parent submarine to improve its accuracy and lethality, according to the navy.

The trials assessed how well the new torpedo integrated with the combat system of an operational submarine.

Commodore Chris Goodsell, who managed the programme, said: "These firings continue to be a major step in ensuring the Royal Navy's Spearfish torpedoes remain ready to face the latest threats, with cutting edge technology at the forefront of the weapon's success. "I would like to thank the teams from across Navy Command, the Submarine Delivery Agency, DE&S and our industry partners who continue to commit time and effort to delivering this vital capability."

Work continues in transitioning existing Spearfish into the improved Mod 1 version for entry into operational service onboard all Royal Navy submarines by 2025.

UK upgrading Sting Ray Torpedoes to be 'Best in Class'



By George Allinson

September 13, 2024

A contract worth over £60 million has been awarded to BAE Systems to upgrade the Sting Ray torpedo.

The Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S) has tasked BAE Systems with carrying out the Sting Ray Mid-Life Upgrade (SRMLU) from Mod 1 to Mod 2, which will help make the torpedo "best in class" and improve its performance against emerging threats. The Sting Ray has been in service with the Royal Navy since 1983, with the current Mod 1 version in service since 2001. It is designed to counter fast, deep-diving submarines as well as quieter conventional submarines operating in coastal waters. The upgrade will also benefit the Royal Air Force (RAF), which uses the torpedo on its Poseidon Maritime Patrol Aircraft, complementing the United States Navy's Mk54 weapon. The four-year upgrade contract covers the design, development, and testing of the Mod 2 version of the lightweight torpedo, including in-water trials. The firm says that this will sustain over 100 highly skilled engineering and specialist jobs across BAE Systems' sites in Portsmouth and Hillend, Fife, while also providing investment to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the UK's high-tech sectors.

Cdre Steve Bolton, Senior Responsible Owner for the SRMLU programme, emphasised the importance of this upgrade: *"This is great news for the Royal Navy and other Sting Ray Lightweight torpedo users. We are taking what is already a very good Anti-Submarine Warfare weapon and turning it into the best in class."* Cdre Richard Harris, Deputy Director of the Weapons Operating Centre at DE&S, said: *"This programme is an essential part of the daily mission that protects the nuclear deterrent and our undersea cables."*

BAE Systems' Managing Director of Maritime Services, Scott Jamieson, also welcomed the contract, saying, *"It's a huge sign of confidence for the company to be entering the next phase of development and be able to demonstrate its additional capabilities. This contract is vitally important to the UK's strategic underwater defence plans."* The assessment phase of the project will last four years and is expected to boost the UK's anti-submarine warfare capabilities significantly, ensuring that both the Royal Navy and RAF are better equipped to deal with future threats.

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 or nigel.mellor@weremembersubmariners.com

Nigel Mellor, Operations Manager

We Remember Submariners

Charity Number 1176446

www.we-remember-submariners.com

07427 159476

Captain William (Bill) Lloyd Owen RAN (Retd)

It is with great sadness that the Submarines Association of Australia reports the death of Captain Bill Owen, a man who was a key figure in the establishment of the modern day RAN Submarine Arm.

Bill Owen was born in Pembrokeshire near Cardigan, Wales, on the 16th of December 1927. After spending most of his early years and school holidays in Khartoum, Sudan where his father was the Chief Justice, he entered the Royal Navy as a Cadet Midshipman on the 1st of December 1941 to train at the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth. After graduating as a Midshipman on the 1st of May 1945 Bill underwent further training in the training cruiser HMS Frobisher and, later, HMS Glasgow, Bill was promoted Acting Sub Lieutenant in May 1947 with four and a half months’ time gained.

In late August 1948 he obtained his Royal Aero Club Aviation certificate on a Tiger Moth Biplane at the Royal Naval Air Service station at Gosport (now HMS SULTAN), before commencing his submarine training in 1949. This was followed by a posting to the T Class submarine HMS Tantalus. Tantalus was a veteran of the war which would be scrapped the following year. Subsequent postings included Springer, Totem (3rd Hand), Scorcher, Sanguine, Trump and Tiptoe (as First Lieutenant).

In October 1953, the New Milton Times reported:

New Milton Advertiser and Lymington Times Sat 3rd Oct 1953

ENGAGEMENT

OWEN-NICHOLSON

Lieutenant William Lloyd Owen RN, elder son of Mr & Mrs Howell Owen of Boundway Top, Sway and Ann Lothian Nicholson, elder daughter of the late Major-General F L Nicholson CB, DSO, MC and of Mrs Nicholson of Tree Tops. Sway.

Ann and Bill were married on 31 July 1954 and, in the same year, he completed Staff Course and qualified as a German Interpreter. He retained his German linguistic skills throughout his life, speaking with other German speakers wherever possible.

Bill successfully undertook Commanding Officers’ Qualifying Course (COQC) No. 29 in 1955 with three other students, Lieutenants Burrage, Fieldhouse & Henry, under the tutelage of “Teacher” Commander D Hay.

Promoted to Lieutenant Commander in August 1957, Bill was appointed in command of HMS Subtle. This was followed by two years in Sydney in command of HMS Anchorite, part of the 4th Submarine Squadron based at HMAS Penguin, between 1959 and 1961.

While in command of Anchorite, the submarine visited Auckland to provide ASW training services for the Royal New Zealand Navy and during a sonar tracking exercise in the Hauraki Gulf, collided with an uncharted rock on 3 October 1960. No one was injured although the submarine spent several weeks in Calliope Dock for repairs. Bill was cleared of any blame at the subsequent court-martial but his Hydrographic Note which suggested the rock be named ‘Owen’s Knob’ was firmly rejected and Anchorite Rock remains the name on charts to this day.

On return to the UK, Bill joined the Tactical School at Woolwich, near London and sparked a security alert when he nodded off while taking the train home in Kent. This was the height of the Cold War and the immediate reaction of the Ministry to queries from Ann as to his whereabouts was that he must have defected! He had, of course, been woken from his slumber by the train's conductor when the train reached the end of the line and, with no further rail services, was now stranded miles from his destination incommunicado in a freezing Waiting Room with no heating! In 1964, the Kentish Express reported:

Kentish Express - Friday 28th February 1964
Submarine Commander

Submarine commander Lt.-Cmdr. William Lloyd Owen (above), whose home is at Goodwin's Cottage, Hartley, near Cranbrook, is the new Captain of H.M.S. Opossum, one of the Navy's latest conventional submarines. He entered Dartmouth Royal Naval College in 1941, when he was 13. He transferred later to the submarine branch. He has earlier commanded submarines Subtle and Anchorite. Lt.-Cmdr. Owen, aged 36, is married and has two sons and three daughters.

HMS Opossum was being built at Cammel Laird's in Birkenhead near Liverpool and, during his command (1964-65), ventured the furthest north under the Arctic ice cap by a conventionally powered submarine. While surface snorkling in a polynya, the Officer of the Watch reported to Bill that what appeared to be glow worms were flying past the bridge. On being ordered below, a Geiger Counter 'swipe' revealed loud crackling noises. The conclusion was that this was actually fallout from Soviet nuclear tests. Fortunately, none seemed the worse for the experience even though the air coming in through the induction mast and being therefore distributed throughout the boat must have had some contamination.

In 1967, Bill Owen transferred to the RAN as an Acting Commander, initially serving at HMAS Penguin in command of the RN 4th Submarine Squadron. On the 18th of August 1967, he became the commissioning Commanding Officer of HMAS Platypus and inaugural Commander of the First Australian Submarine Squadron. Bill was confirmed in the rank of Commander in June 1969 and would remain in command of the Submarine Squadron until 1971, guiding it through its formative years.

Following a posting to HMAS Cerberus as the Training Commander in 1970, Bill joined the Naval Staff in Canberra as Director of Submarine Policy, where he served until 1975. During his tenure, he initiated a number of projects to enhance the warfighting capability of the Oberon class submarines; a combination that was later dubbed the Submarine Weapons Update Program

(SWUP). SWUP had far-reaching implications since the submarines now had the ability to reach their potential as strategic assets for Australia and it provided the confidence, many years later, for Australia to embark on the New Construction Submarines project that delivered the Collins class submarines. During this period, Government approved an expansion of the Submarine Force to six.

In January 1976, he would return to Sydney to command Platypus and the Submarine Squadron for a second time. This was coincident with the Australian submarine service being stretched with the introduction into service of HMA Submarines Orion and Otama, creating a manpower problem compounded by many of the early RAN submariners discharging.

He was promoted to Captain on the 30th of June 1976. In December 1978, one of his final duties as the Squadron Commander was to welcome the newly commissioned HMAS Otama to the Squadron, in which his son Frank Owen was serving.

Bill's final posting was as Naval Officer Commanding Queensland. He retired from the RAN in 1983 and initially settled in Brisbane where he remained active in the defence sector as a consultant to industry.

Bill and his wife Ann moved back to the Canberra region in 1989, settling in the rural area of Wamboin. After Ann's passing in 2013, Bill sold the Wamboin property and, after several years at The Grange in Deakin, moved to Warrigal Care in Bundanoon, NSW for the final 12 months of his life.

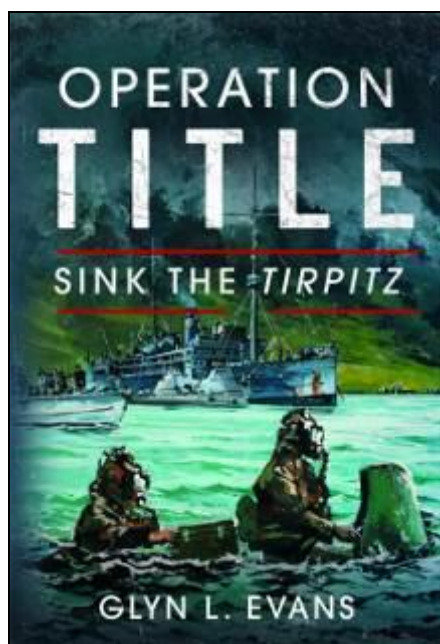
Bill was gifted in the arts with great skill on the piano and also with pen and brush.

Captain William Lloyd Owen RAN (Rtd) passed away at Bundanoon on the 4th of October 2024 aged 96. He is survived by his son Commander Frank Owen OAM RAN (Rtd), daughters Louise and Sarah, son Charlie, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Tragically, Ann and Bill lost two daughters Jane, aged 11, in 1972 and Mary, aged 46, in 2003

BOOK REVIEWS

A NEW BOOK – OPERATION TITLE

Reviewed by Barrie Downer



This new book by Glyn L Evans - recently published by Pen & Sword Books describes what might have been one of the most important Naval Operations of WWII - had it been successful. Operation TITLE was an attempted attack on the German Battleship TIRPITZ in its lair in the Norwegian Fjords – not by X-Craft but by two Chariots carrying explosive charges (sometimes referred to as Human Torpedoes) each to be manned by two crew members. The Chariots and Crews plus their 'Dressers' were transported to 'occupied' Norway by a modified trawler (the ARTHUR) manned by a Norwegian crew. There the Chariots were hoisted out and secured beneath the trawler on cables for the passage through the fjords to the starting point for the attack. However, as they approached the intended starting point rough seas were encountered and the two Chariots broke free and were lost. There was then no way that Operation Title could continue.

The Trawler was then scuttled and equipment disposed of and both the trawler and chariot crews split up & started on their escape to Sweden through occupied territory. During the escape one of the parties ran into a Police Border patrol and, in an exchange of gunfire, one of the Chariot crew members - Able Seaman Robert Evans - was shot, thought to have been killed, and had to be left behind. All the others successfully made their way to Sweden and to safety.

As it turned out AB Robert Evans (no relation to the author) was not dead as had been thought. He was captured and handed over to the Germans forces. Although he should have been treated as a Prisoner of War he was later executed by the Gestapo in accordance with Hitler's infamous 'Commando' Order.

'OPERATION TITLE' with its Foreword by Doctor David Parry (former Submarine Commanding Officer) is not only the story of the 'Operation Title' as a whole and the of bravery of all the participants but it is also a biography of Able Seaman Robert Evans – a very courageous man who very nearly made it to safety but was then captured killed by a merciless enemy! Had Operation Title succeeded it would have had a significant effect on the course of the War and on the supply of war materials to the Russian Allies via the Arctic Convoys. It might also have resulted in significant honours for the participants – but unfortunately - there were none! It is also a reminder that seemingly ordinary people are capable of extraordinary acts of bravery in time of War!

ISBN 978-1-39905-017-7

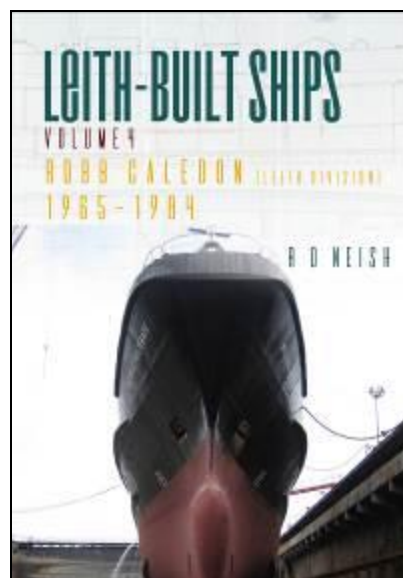
Available from Pen & Sword Books

Email: enquiries@pen-and-sword.co.uk

Website: www.pen-and-sword.co.uk

NOTE: Able Seaman Robert Evans is one of the names commemorated on the recently refurbished and rededicated Kylescu Memorial described in the previous article.

LEITH BUILT SHIPS



In Volume Four of R O Neish's story of the Leith Shipyards he covers in some detail the varied output of the Henry Robb/Robb Caledon Yard in the years from 1965 until the closure of the Shipyard by British Shipbuilders in 1984. Volumes One to Three of this series have already been reviewed in previous Issues of 'In Depth' and it is clear that the author has continued his meticulous description of the history of the Yard. In the period covered, the Leith Yard built a total of 40 ships and vessels including powerful tugs, cargo vessels, boom defence vessels, and a survey ship for the Royal Navy, a research ship for the Antarctic Survey and two passenger/car ferries for the Portsmouth/Isle of Wight service, offshore supply vessels for the North Sea as well as many other craft.

'In Depth' readers may well recognise some of the ships described or may have served in them. In particular the Tug LLOYDSMAN was deployed during the Icelandic 'Cod Wars' of the 1970s in support of the Royal Navy vessels protecting the Trawlers. HMS HERALD served as a Hospital Transport Ship in the Falklands in 1982. RMAS GOOSANDER was also at the Falklands and at South Georgia involved in salvage efforts for the Argentinian Submarine SANTA FE. HMS ENGADINE – the helicopter support ship - is another name some will remember and was also part of the Falklands task force - spending much of her time there in San Carlos Water.

The author has included many observations and anecdotes from workers at the Leith Yards and from those who served in the different ships - all adding something of interest to the overall story.

Readers from the Portsmouth area and from the Isle of Wight will be more than familiar with the Sealink car Ferries St CATHERINE and St HELEN. Those of you who served in HMS DOLPHIN can hardly have missed these two ships leaving and returning to Portsmouth several times a day. When I was serving in DOLPHIN my office overlooked the harbour entrance and, on occasion, could be distracted from the work in hand following the ferries from leaving the ferry terminal through the harbour entrance and almost all the way to the Isle of Wight before it went out of view.

One comment on Volume Four (and indeed on Volumes One to Three) is that they would all benefit from an Index to make it easier to find that snippet which you noticed on first reading and wanted to find again!

The author has another book 'on the stocks' in which he will discuss ships and vessels built at Leith for the Royal Navy during WWII. If the level of detail in the next book is up to the same standard as in these four Volumes it should be a very good read!

Readership: this will be of great appeal to anyone interested in ships and shipbuilding along with the maritime heritage of the UK.

ISBN 978-184995-578-2, 240 × 170mm 166pp
liberally illustrated with c.130 photographs, b/w and colour, softback £18.99.

SUBMARINERS ‘CROSSED THE BAR’
(Reported 1st July 2024 to 7th October 2024 (** WWI Service)

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

NAME	DATE/AGE	RANK/RATE	BRANCH	SM SERVICE	SUBMARINES
Brian William Parrott	25th March 2007 aged 59	Petty Officer 2nd Class RCN	SAOC	From 1973	OKANAGAN, OJIBWA & ONONDAGA
Roy Wilson, BEM M978276 & P/MX 924712	6th July 2024 aged 87	Fleet Chief Petty Officer Cook	Gosport Branch	1958 to 1963	TURPIN (1959 to 1960), TRENCHANT (1961 to 1962) & AURIGA (1962 to 1963) on ‘Commissioning’ at Devonport on 31st May 1962
David H Slinn	8th July 2024	Chief Petty Officer Weapons Engineering Artificer	We Remember Submariners	Not given	RENOWN (P) (1st Commission Crew) on 15th November 1968 & REVENGE
John (Nigel) Thorne D192307Y	9th July 2024	Able Seaman (TS)	We Remember Submariners	Not given	ONSLAUGHT, DOLPHIN School (9th April 1985 to 7th June 1985), ONSLAUGHT (from 11th June 1985), OTTER & TORBAY
Ian David Anderson, OBE CO 00136L	10th July 2024 aged 89	Commander (WESM)	Dolphin Branch & Friend of SM Museum	March 1961 to July 1986	EXPLORER (1961 to 1962), EXCALIBUR (1962), ORPHEUS (1962 to 1963), OPOSSUM (1963 & on commissioning at Birkenhead on 29th February 1964 to 1965), CONQUEROR (1968 to 1969) & WARSPITE (1969 to 1971)
Leslie H Mussell	13th July 2024	Able Seaman (RP*)	We Remember Submariners	Not given	RENOWN (P) (1st Commission Crew) on 15th November 1968
Barry Edwin James Loram P098908E	15th July 2024 aged 75	Leading Marine Engineering Mechanic (M)	Gosport Branch & We Remember Submariners	October 1970 to June 1976	DREADNOUGHT
Christopher Bernard Cecil Hyde CO 22048X	19th July 2024 aged 79	Lt Commander (E) MESM	Bath Branch	1967 to 1985	REPULSE (P) (1969 to 1971), RENOWN (P) (1977 to 1979) & DEFIANCE & SCEPTRE (DMEO 1982 to 1984)
Lionel N Robinson D081721F	31st July 2024 aged 76	Chief Petty Officer Coxswain	Merseyside Branch & We Remember Submariners	1968 to 1985	OLYMPUS on recommissioning at Devonport on 6th March 1972, RORQUAL, SEALION, ODIN & OPPORTUNE
Philip (Floyd) Sturman	July 2024	Leading Cook	We Remember Submariners	Not given	VALIANT (16th February 1980 Commission) & VALIANT (on 12th August 1994 de-commissioning), COURAGEOUS & WARSPITE
James Richard Jordan P/JX 952569	3rd August 2024 aged 84	Leading Seaman (UC2)	Leicestershire & Rutland Branch & We Remember Submariners	1958 to 1967	TRENCHANT, TRUMP, CACHALOT, TIRELESS, AMBUSH, ANDREW, OPOSSUM (on commissioning in Birkenhead on 5th June 1964), OTUS, TACITURN & TABARD

Denis Marshall	5th August 2024	Petty Officer Steward	We Remember Submariners	Not given	CHURCHILL on commissioning at Barrow on 15th July 1970
Graham Nash	6th August 2024 aged 54	Marine Engineering Mechanic	We Remember Submariners	Not given	TRAFALGAR
Simon (George) Crosthwaite D133202C	11th August 2024 aged 77	Marine Engineering Mechanic (M)	Dolphin Branch	Not given	OCELOT (1976 to 1978) & ODIN (on commissioning in 1978 to 1980)
Terry E Oram	11th August 2024 aged 75	Charge Chief Marine Engineering Artificer	We Remember Submariners	Not given	RESOLUTION & COURAGEOUS
Derek Hall	11th August 2024	Leading Seaman (Underwater Control 3)	Friend of SM Museum & We Remember Submariners	Not given	OTTER (on commissioning at Greenock) on 29th August 1962), OTTER on Commissioning at Devonport in June 1966) & ALLIANCE
Robert (Bob) Baragwanath	11th August 2024	Warrant Officer 2 (LSM)	We Remember Submariners	Not given	CHURCHILL on 'recommissioning' at Chatham on 7th May 1983, SPLENDID ('Paying Off' Crew) on 14th August 2003 & HMNB Clyde as FOST FASMAT (S Instructor) in January 2006. Also served in SUPERB, SCEPTRE & VIGILANT
Roger Ian (Taff) Stell D087301P	14th August 2024 aged 79	Chief Petty Officer MEA(L)	Gosport Branch	April 1968 to October 1993	ORPHEUS, SEALION, OSIRIS, OTTER, ONYX & OPOSSUM
Colin Taylor D126607V	21st August 2024 aged 67	Leading Weapons Engineering Mechanic	Barrow Branch	June 1977 to August 1994	RENOWN, REPULSE, TORBAY (1st Commission Crew) on 7th February 1987 & TURBULENT
Thomas C Oates M972134	August 2024 aged 83	Petty Officer Cook	Australia Branch	March 1961 to February 1981	SEADEVIL, NARWHAL, AMBUSH, ALLIANCE, OPPORTUNE (on commissioning at Chatham 29th December 1964), RESOLUTION (P) (on recommissioning at Rosyth 27th November 1976) & REVENGE
Peter Edmund Moore P059332	August 2024 aged 81	ME1	Essex Branch	1965 to 1970	CACHALOT (1965 to 1966), RORQUAL (1966 to 1968) & AURIGA (1968 to 1970)
John Alexander (Blackie) Blacklaw	August 2024	Chief Petty Officer (Sonar)	SA Report	To 1984	REVENGE (P) (on recommissioning at Rosyth in Aug/Sep 1975), REVENGE (P) (on recommissioning at Rosyth on 4th September 1982) & in TRAFALGAR (1st Commission Crew) on 27th May 1983)
Malcolm Stanley Silvester	13th August 2024 aged 89	Lieutenant (SD) (L)	We Remember Submariners	1960s to 1988	DOLPHIN (1966), ORPHEUS (1967), DOLPHIN (1968), RNC Greenwich (1969), NEPTUNE (1970 to 1973 and listed as REPULSE (2nd Commission Crew in 1972), VULCAN 1974 to 1976), DOLPHIN (1977 & 1978), NEPTUNE (1979 to 1980) & DOLPHIN (1981 to 1988)
William Stanley John Pooley P/KX 16354	19th August 2024 aged 99	Stoker 1st Class	Dolphin Branch	1942 to 1946	TANTALUS & VOLATILE
Michael (Darby) Allen	3rd September 2024	Not given	We Remember Submariners	Not given	SPARTAN, SPLENDID, RENOWN & WARSPITE

David Henry Dalley	5th September 2024	Not given	We Remember Submariners	Not given	UPSTART, UNTIRING, SUBTLE & TAPIR
Michael Wayne Rowe D150019M	6th September 2024	Chief Petty Officer MEM (M)	Navy News	May 1965 to 31st March 1993	ACHERON, ALARIC, RORQUAL (on recommissioning for 4th Commission at Rosyth on 1971), ONSLAUGHT, OBERON & SE'IT
Michael Anthony Board	13th September 2024	Chief Weapons Electrical Artificer	We Remember Submariners	Not given	REPULSE (S) on recommissioning at Rosyth in 1987
Leonard Borrowdale	14th September 2024 aged 83	Fleet Chief Control Artificer Weapons	Navy News	Not given	REPULSE (P) (1st Commission Crew) 28th September 1968, WARSPITE recommissioning at Chatham November 1973 & SCEPTRE (1st Commission Crew) 14th February 1978
John P McKay 063671	17th September 2024 aged 78	Leading Seaman (UW2)	Gosport Branch	1965 to 1972	AURIGA (1966), AMPHION (1966), ANCHORITE (1966 to 1968), ORPHEUS (1969 to 1971), ODIN & OCELOT (1972)
Brian D Malcolmson D113380L	24th September 2024	Charge Chief Marine Engineering Artificer (EL)	West of Scotland Branch	September 1974 to July 1996	REVENGE (S) (on recommissioning at Rosyth in Aug/Sep 1975). RESOLUTION, RENOWN (P) on rededication at Rosyth 21st November 1992 & REPULSE
Alan D Rogers D083340P	24th September 2024 aged 76	Chief Petty Officer MEM (M)	Gosport Branch	1967 to 1982	TIPTOE, OPOSSUM 'on Commissioning' at Chatham on 2nd August 1974 & ONYX
William Kilpatrick (Ken) Seward, RCN	25th September 2024 aged 90	Able Seaman Radioman	SAOC	From 1955	Member of the 2 nd Draft of Canadian Submariners arrived for Training at DOLPHIN in January 1955, ALCIDE & TRESPASSER
William "Bill" Fisher	26th September 2024 aged 89	Lieutenant Commander	We Remember Submariners	1955 to 1964	DOLPHIN, TABARD (1955), ALCIDE, AMBROSE, ARTFUL (IL 15th September 1961), TACITURN (1962), TRUMP (IL 15th November 1963 to 1965) & HARTLAND POINT
Paul Henry Robinson CO 23535T	26th September 2024 aged 68	Commodore (X) (SM)	Friends of SM Museum & Gosport Branch	September 1977 to October 2009	DOLPHIN (1978), OPOSSUM (February 1978 to December 1978), ONONDAGA (January 1979 to December 1980), REPULSE (S) (April 1981 to August 1981), REVENGE (S) (September 1981 to August 1984), WARSPITE (IL April 1985 to January 1987), ODIN (CO February 1987 to September 1988), FOSM STWG (1989 to 1990), NEPTUNE (1991 to 1992) & SPARTAN (CO February 1992 to June 1994)
John Lee Edghill	30 th September age 76	Not Given	We Remember Submariners	Not given	WARSPITE
Thomas A Cosgrove P/M 981622E	September 2024	Marine Engineering Artificer (P) 1st Class	We Remember Submariners	Not given	OPPORTUNE, RESOLUTION (P) (2nd Commission) on 10th July 1971, COURAGEOUS, WARSPITE & VALIANT
John H L Culross D055921J	September 2024	Chief Petty Officer Weapons Electrical Artificer	Gosport Branch	July 1968 to October 1981	RESOLUTION (2nd Commission Crew on 10th July 1971), COURAGEOUS & VALIANT
John Peter Drabble	September 2024 aged 84	Lt Commander	Friend of SM Museum	1962 to 1973	ANCHORITE (1963 to 1964), PORPOISE (1965 to 1967), Rothesay Attack Teacher (February to June 1967), TRUMP (IL July 1967 to November 1968), RORQUAL (November 1968 to 1969), DOLPHIN (1969), COQC No. 70-1, CACHALOT (CO 1970 to 1971) & VERNON (1971 to 1973)

Michael Geoffrey Tibbs, OBE, MiD	2nd October 2024 aged 102	Lieutenant, RNVR	Dolphin Branch & Friend of SM Museum	April 1943 to January 1946 **	L26 (4th Hand), TANTALUS (3rd Hand), VARNE (IL)
Keith Marriner P054816	3rd October 2024 aged 82	ME1	Northern Ireland Branch	April 1963 to September 1967	ASTUTE (1963 to 1966), TALENT (1966 to 1967) & TIPTOE (on Commissioning at Chatham) on 24th February 1967
William Lloyd (Bill) Owen	4 th October 2024 aged 96	Captain, RAN	SAA	1949 to 1978	TANTALUS, SPRINGER, TOTEM (3rd Hand 1950), SCORCHER, SANGUINE, TRUMP, TIPTOE (IL), COQC No. 29 1955, SUBTLE (CO 3rd April 1956), ANCHORITE (CO 24th March 1959 to January 1961), OPOSSUM (CO 29th February 1964), transfer to RAN 1967, PLATYPUS (CO August 1967 to August 1970 & January 1976 to December 1978)
Eric Skelton P/MX 867169	6th October 2024 aged 93	Chief Radio Electrician	Barrow in Furness & Poole Branches	Not Given	TALLY HO, THULE, AENEAS, ANDREW, STURDY, SEA DEVIL, SCORCHER, SANGUINE, SENTINEL, TURPIN, TABARD (6th March 1964 & 'Commissioning' in 1965) & OTTER (on Commissioning in June 1966)

