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Chairman's Dit April 2009

Reflecting on the words of the song "Didn't we have a lovely time the day we went to Bangor". Well some of us went for a weekend and had a ball. The Northern Ireland branch as per norm excelled and everything was well planned down to the last detail. In total two-dozen of our Branch including wives plus Jim and Rita from the Morecambe branch made the trip across. Five stalwarts came for the Saturday National business meeting; therefore we who remained had to undertake the arduous duty of test-driving various hostelrys whilst the wives went shopping.

The trip started early Friday morning when Tony Griffiths driving the Clarkson coach (was sick as a parrot because he was not coming with us), picked us all up at various designated points, before heading north to Stranraer and MSS Voyager.

Continued on page 2



Audacious Keel laying
Ceremony 24th March 2009





Armed Forces Day

The MOD Whitehall, has, over the last two years, been pushing the need for recognition of the UK Armed Forces by the award of the Veterans Badge. Many of the Branch have received a Badge and are currently wearing them.

This year, 2009, the Veterans Policy Unit in Whitehall, and the Government, has finally decided to rename the annual event ARMED FORCES DAY (AFD). The date for the 2009 event, nationally, is SATURDAY 27TH JUNE. Barrow has been asked to put together a team representing all Services, to continue the drive for more holders of the Badge. That team is now in place and contains:-

Alan McMurray
Army and TA

Michael Garnett
RAFA

John Smith – Royal British Legion & Barrow SA

Bob Palmer
Barrow SA

Ken Collins
Deputy Chairman

Terry Spurling
Chair

The 2009 AFD will be coincident with the FOS09 over the week-end of 25/26 July.

An Armed Forces Marquee will be available for shelter and refreshments etc.

It is planned that all Badge Holders and new Applicants for Badges, will Parade from the Town hall into BAE Buccleuch Dock for a Presentation of Badges Ceremony.

I have asked Bob Palmer to lobby the SA Membership for new Badges but also to determine the number of those currently holding Badges who will parade on Sunday 26th July to support the event

It is probably worth stating that the aim of the AFD is for veterans to attract similar advantages for the UK to those currently enjoyed by Vets in such places as Australia and the USA

H.M.S. COSSACK SIDE PARTY

(Fifty Years On)

AH-LIN was senior hand and tragically lost her life in the summer of 1948. On the morning the Flotilla was due to sail for the summer cruise to Japan, COSSACK was on West Arm (West) and CONSORT on West Arm (East). CONSORT, on slipping, came astern to make room in order to get round the North Arm and trapped our side party's sampan between the two ships.

The sampan was beginning to break up and on COSSACK's quarterdeck our bearing-out spars were being snapped off as efforts were made to keep the two ships apart.

AH-LIN and AH-MA were in the sampan at the time and screaming for help. Lieutenant Cussins leapt over the side onto the disintegrating sampan and managed to haul AH-MA from the water by her pig-tail. She was quickly hauled inboard and Lieut Cussins just scrambled back before the two ships came together.

Unfortunately nothing could be done for AH-LIN. Although still alive when brought out of the water, she died in S.B.A. Toomey's arms as he tried to deal with her wounds.

AH-HO and Peggy were aboard COSSACK at the time and were very distraught at what had happened. Our sailing was delayed and I believe funds were provided by the Wardroom so that a new sampan could be purchased before our return from Japan. Lieutenant Cussins was commended for his brave action but also reprimanded for improperly leaving his ship.

AH-MOY, now over eighty, is hale and hearty, still working and lives in the Causeway Bay area. AH-MO is living in Shaukewan. Peggy married Mr. Leung, who at one time was a mess-boy in H.M.S. CONSTANCE, and also live in the Causeway Bay area. They have nine children, four daughters and five sons, most of whom have made a great success of their lives. One son is a business man in Australia, another a Group Secretary, another a lawyer and the youngest is a Superintendent in the Hong Kong Marine Police and is Officer-in-Charge of the Shaukewan Base.

There are seven bases around the old colony of Hong Kong. In pride of place in the officers mess at Shaukewan among several other plaques and badges are two R.N. ships plaques - H.M.S. COSSACK and H.M.S. CONSTANCE.

Time passes on and the last photograph (No. 3) was taken in February 2000 at a vantage point overlooking the main crossing point from the New Territories into China proper.

Mrs. Leung and other members of her family came over to England in August for a family gathering to celebrate a grandson's achievement of gaining a degree in Economics at Oxford. Almost anything can be achieved with encouragement, endeavour and perseverance.

Unfortunately no pictures have been supplied for this article although referred to a number of times.





Barrie Downer Secretary



Spring is here again should start getting a bit warmer now! Last weekend we were at the Submariners Association National Council Conference hosted this by the Northern Ireland Branch.

There will be a fuller report about the Conference Weekend in the next Branch Newsletter, in the next issue of 'In Depth' and, of course, we'll give you a run down of the discussions and decisions taken at the Conference at the Branch AGM on 7th April.

We will be having visitors at the April Meeting as well the Morecambe Bay Branch are visiting – so we can have a bit of a social gathering after the meeting and a warming 'Tot' as well

By now you should all have received your Raffle Tickets for the SA Annual Draw. All I need you to do is to sell the £10.00 worth that you have received and return the completed Stubs to me with £10.00 of course to me either at the next Branch Meeting, to my office in the BAE Shipyard (MoD Officer, Shaftesbury House Ground Floor) if you work in the yard or at my home address. By the way if you haven't yet paid your '2009 Subs' just put another £10.00 in and the Membership Secretary will send you your Membership Card.

What about events this month well Saturday 11th April brings our Annual Dinner Dance at the Lisdoonie which Colin will cover in detail in his Social Secretary's 'Dit' and we also have the St George's Day Parade on Sunday 26th April.

Looking ahead May brings the Keswick to Barrow Walk (we will need some Stewards as usual to man the gate into the Vickers Sports and Social Grounds in Hawcoat Lane), the Army Navy Rugby - which John Houlding will tell everyone

about and it also brings the (now Annual) Submariners Spring Cruise to Zeebrugge it's still not too late if you'd like to go contact Rick Rothwell down at Merseyside ASAP!

July brings the Branch Barbeque (details from Colin) and the Submariners Association Annual Draw to be hosted this year by the Portsmouth Branch again full details are not available as yet but the Portsmouth Gang is looking forward to seeing everyone and they will put on a good 'Do' their Raffle efforts at last year's Reunion raised a lot of funds.

Last month I told you about the 2009 Barrow Festival of the Sea and Veterans Parade pretty much the same arrangements as last year and the same venue in the Shipyard at the Buccleuch Dock end. However its no longer in June (as previously advertised) but it is now in July! Watch this space for further details.

Thanks to everyone who attended the March Branch Meeting and helped us to decide how to vote on the Recommendations and Proposals and on which two Association Members (of the four Volunteers who put their names forward) we supported for the vacant posts on the National Committee.

As I said before the April Branch Meeting is the Branch Annual General Meeting which you are all encouraged to attend send in apologies if you can't make it please just so we know you are still with us!

There aren't any proposals for the AGM this year so, apart from the Officers Reports and voting on new Committee Members and a Delegate for the 2010 National Council Conference, it will be a pretty short AGM. All items for the AGM must be on the Agenda so there should be no 'Any Other Business'.

Dave Jenkins is standing down from Committee work after a very long involvement with Branch Business. Dave has not been too well of late as many of

you will know and he needs the rest.

Ted Budgen wishes to stay with the Committee but is to give up the Membership Secretary work he has been doing of late and also the distribution of the Newsletter.

That's all from me! See you at the AGM don't be late remember it starts half an hour earlier at 1930! Regards

Barrie

OPERATION DEADLIGHT

Presented by Christine Bleakley and Adrian Chiles, The One Show is developing a 4 minute film about Operation Deadlight – the scuttling of 121 U-boats off the North coast of Ireland in 1945.

We are looking for veterans that took part in the operation and can recall the event to add a personal account of what happened and what it meant to them.

If you remember this historical event or know someone who does please call:

Gemma Metcalfe-Beckers

0113 203 4075

gemma@reallife.co.uk

Reunions

15 May - HMS Opossum
Association

16th Reunion at the Lindum Hotel, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire from May 15 to 18. All Opossum's welcome

6 June - HMS/m Dreadnought

A reunion of all those who sailed on HMS/m Dreadnought will be held at the Allesley Hotel in the Village of Allesley Near Coventry on the 6 June 2009. Further information can be obtained from our website or Bruce Allen

bruce_allan@hotmail.com

Stealth & Efficiency

FUTURE SUBMARINES could be less costly to maintain, more manoeuvrable and possibly stealthier with the use of composites. So think engineers at Oxford University who are leading a project to investigate the use of such materials to replace hull components currently made of metal.

Composites - materials made up of two or more structurally complimentary substances are engineered to be stronger and stiffer than metal. For the same strength, composites are lighter than steel and aluminium and also less susceptible to corrosion. Composites are attractive in naval platforms because they can maintain the stability margins and buoyancy needs for the complex combat systems used in next-generation submarines.

Navies around the world are increasingly incorporating the material into warships. There is also a requirement to reduce procurement and the cost of ownership while maintaining capability.

Dr Vito Tagarielli, one of the project investigators and a composite materials specialist at Oxford, previously worked on testing composites for warships and predicts similar successful results with their integration in submarines.

'With warships, composites have shown to perform better than metals in terms of resistance to explosions,' he said.

The Oxford team believes, in the future, composites could replace nickel aluminium bronze a metal alloy used for critical components such as submarine hull valves.

Nickel aluminium bronze was first used in submarine applications in the 1960s after demonstrating it had better strength, toughness and shock loading resistance compared to gunmetal, which was previously the standard material.

However, components cast in nickel aluminium bronze were found to be susceptible to corrosion.

'When you have a metallic structure that is sitting in the water you have to maintain it a lot and check it for corrosion,' said Tagarielli. 'There is a potential cost saving using composites because essentially this material might have a better relation with the water.'

Composites may also mitigate cost and supply problems associated with complex high-density nickel aluminium bronze castings.

The Oxford team hopes to develop a new composite structure with fibre and hybrid architectures that can withstand years submerged under water and potential blasts from naval ordnance.

Their research will begin by gaining a clearer understanding of how composites respond to high strains while submerged in water. The Oxford researchers have developed a testing method that simulates the exact type of loading an explosion would cause on materials.

The team will take a small sample of a composite and place it at the end of a tube filled with water. A sliding piston will enclose the opposite end.

With the high velocity of a torpedo, a heavy metal projectile will be shot at the piston and create a shockwave in the water that hits the sample. Using high-speed cameras the Oxford team will observe the sample to monitor the deformation and determine its effect.

The tests will be performed on samples that have spent various amounts of time submerged in water. This will determine what detrimental effect if any -water has on the properties of composites.

With the additional use of computer modelling, Tagarielli and his team expects to have discovered the optimum composite structure within five years.

There are many different architectural possibilities, he said, including 3D reinforced structures and composite sandwiches.

A sandwich solution, Tagarielli said, would consist of two plates separated by a soft material such as foam. 'There is a body of literature that shows for a given weight a sandwich structure is much stronger than a solid structure,' he said.

The basic goal will be to find a material that is stronger and lighter weight than metal. 'We hope to reduce the weight of the submarine so there is less inertia and it can have higher acceleration and easier manoeuvrability,' added Tagarielli.

The use of composites could also have strategic advantages. 'If a submarine is made of a composite it makes it invisible to modern sea mines that detonate when they recognise a specific magnetic or acoustic signature,' he said. 'These are all advantages [the UK] MoD is attracted by.'

The five-year Oxford University project, which begins this April with the aid of a £690,000 EPSRC grant, is receiving support from the Ministry of Defence and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory. Industrial partners include BAE Systems Advanced Technology Centre, Rolls-Royce Naval Marine, Materials Modelling NPL and Weidlinger Associates.

Siobhan Wagner





Chaplains Dit April 2009

Chaplains thought of the month Rituals have always been valued highly by the members of any given society, therefore Putting on my serious hat for a few moments I want to explain why I decided to insert the Bangor tot-time images into my Dit.

A: There was not enough room to do them justice on the front page.

B: A comment overheard at breakfast from a delegate who said that he joined the navy in 1972. Made me realise that his navy never experienced the ritual surrounding tot-time.

C: So if we think on, the Tot for us old timers became an important daily ritual. Whilst we had to accept that it had no place in an increasing technological world. We nevertheless bemoaned it's passing and still spend time reflecting and reliving its many legends, during our tot-times thirty-eight years after the event.

For Christian's the Season of Lent is a ritual that pre-dates

tot-time by almost two thousand years or so. Lent is also a time of reflection plus prayer when we consider the teachings and reality of Christ. So when we look at our world today, particularly with the current London G20 Conference plus Climate Change concerns we realise we are in worrying times. Enabling us to see we have people in Politics; Banking; and positions of Power, that seem to have forgotten Christ fundamental commandment of "Loving your neighbour as yourself". So I leave you with this thought. Many years ago when the London Times asked a number of writers for essays on the topic 'What's wrong with the world?'

Chesterton sent in the reply shortest and most to the point:

Dear Sirs: I am. Sincerely Yours, GK Chesterton"

Regards
Jonsey



GRANDMA'S PROBLEM

The family wheeled Grandma out on the lawn, in her wheelchair, where the activities for her 100th birthday were taking place. Grandma couldn't speak very well, but she would write notes when she needed to communicate.

After a short time out on the lawn, Grandma started leaning off to the right, so some family members grabbed her, straightened her up and stuffed pillows on her right.

A short time later, she started leaning off to her left, so again the family grabbed her and stuffed pillows on her left. Soon she started leaning forward, so the family members again, grabbed her and then tied a pillowcase around her waist to hold her up.

A nephew who arrived late came up to Grandma and said, 'Hi, Grandma, you're looking good! How are they treating you?' Grandma took out her little notepad and wrote. The sods will not let me pass wind!!

MARKET RESEARCH

A market researcher is interviewing people about their sex lives. The next person she stops is a submariner. "When did you last have sex?"

The submariner thinks his luck has changed for the better, and he replies "Nineteen fifty-five." Taken aback, she says, "That's a long time ago, isn't it?"

The Submariner looks at his watch. "Not really, it's only twenty-one fifteen now."



Barrow SA Slops



Slops are available from our supplier (Balmoral Knitwear) subject to a minimum order of 6 garments to get the Branch badge embroidered free of charge. To order smaller quantities puts the price of each item up by between £5.17 and £6.32 for embroidery plus between £1.50 and £6 for postage. For 6 or more items there is £7.50 for postage to be split between the number of items ordered'

The Balmoral catalogue can be found on their website www.balmoralknitwear.co.uk Select the fist subsite 'Balmoral Knitwear' and select the catalogue from the menu at the bottom of the page. Don't be confused by the menu titles, the products are sprinkled amongst all the titles except. 'Bespoke'.

Subject to the '6 or more' requirement orders received at or before a Branch Meeting will normally be available for collection at the following monthly meeting.

To save any confusion by different manufacturers using differing standard sizes, please always quote your actual chest measurement when ordering.

Your friendly "Bernards Rep" Alan West can be contacted on 01229 822623 or by E-mail on alanwest13@hotmail.com



Current prices are as follows:-

Item	Code	Material	Size	Price
'V' Neck Pullover	SARV	Acrylic	36-48	19.78
	SAVN	Acrylic	36-48	19.78
			50/52	22.20
	WAVN	Wool/Acrylic	36-48	22.56
			50/52	26.73
			54/56	30.02
Crew Neck Pullover	SACN	Acrylic	36-48	19.78
	WACN	Wool/Acrylic	36-48	22.56
			52	26.73
Sleeveless Slipover	SASO	Acrylic	36-48	16.42
	WASO	Wool/Acrylic	36-48	19.93
Oxford SS Shirt	OXSS	Cotton/Poly	15-181/2	19.75
LS Shirt	OXFS		15-181/2	22.48
Classic SS Shirt	RGSS	Poly/Cotton	14-181/2	17.37
	LS Shirt	RGFS	14-181/2	18.38
Jerzees				
Sweat shirt	SWCN	Cotton/Poly	36-46	12.34
Nevis				
Sweat shirt	BTCN	Acry/CotIPoly	36-48	12.34
Pique				
Polo Shirt	PPPP	Cotton/Poly	36-56	11.28
Deluxe Polo	PPDP	Cotton/Poly	36-52	11.85
Elite Polo	PPEP	Cotton/Poly	36-52	11.85
Polar Fleece				
Jacket	PPFF	100% Poly	36-48	16.22
Showerproof Neptune				
Jacket	PPNP	Nylon/Cotton	36-52	14.8

From Stock

Branch Ties £10

Blazer Badges £11





**Message From
Submariners Web Site**

Dear sir/madam

I am trying to find a picture of HMS G11 i have some pictures of what is left of her but would like a picture of her pre 22.11.1918.I also have a picture of G.P.backs grave on his headstone it says HMS Lucia...why not G11.

If any member would like to see any of my photos they are more than welcome to email me.

chris crossman
crosschris14@yahoo.co.uk

Ouch

A little old lady is trudging down the street, dragging two large plastic garbage bags. Every once in a while a piece of currency slips through a tear in one of the bags.

Noticing this, a policeman stops her. "Ma'am, \$20 bills are falling out of your bag."

"Oh, really? Darn!" says the little old lady. "I'd better go back and see if I can collect them. Thanks for the warning!"

"Well now, not so fast," says the cop. "How did you get all that money?" He arches an eyebrow and asks teasingly, "You didn't steal it, did you?"

"Oh, no!" says the little old lady. "You see, my back yard is right up against the parking lot of the football stadium. Each time there's a game, a lot of fans pee through the fence right into my flower beds! So, I go and stand behind the bushes with my hedge clipper, and every time someone sticks his thingy through the fence, I grab hold of it and holler "Twenty dollars or off it comes!"

"That seems only fair," laughs the cop. "Okay, good luck! By the way, what's in the other bag?"

"Well, not everybody pays

Lord These Departed shipmates with Dolphins on their chest are part of an outfit known as the best. Make them welcome and take them by the hand you'll find without doubt they are the best in the land. So heavenly father add their names to the roll of our departed shipmates still on patrol let them know that we who survive will always keep there memories alive

The names of those members reported in March to have 'Crossed the Bar'



Gosport Branch
24th March 2009
AJ (Andy) Bruce
Chief petty officer (UW1)
D096224F
Aged 58
Submarine service 1968-1996
in
Onslaught, Oracle, Walrus
Grampus, Onyx, Otter
Opportune



West of Scotland
March 2009
J (John) Mycock
Able Seaman (UW3)
P/JX 923103
Aged 72
Submarine service 1958-1960
in
Aeneas & Narwhal



Non Member
28th Jan 2009
John Robson
Petty Officer (ME)
Aged 69
Submarine service 1960-1966
in
Taciturn & Trump



Dolphin Branch
March 2009 Alan (Peewee)
Hunt
Petty Officer (UC1)
Aged 68
Submarine service 1961-1967
in
Taciturn, Trump,
Thermopylae, Totem, Artemis
&
Narwhal



Blackpool Branch
March 2009
G (Gerald) Horner
Stoker 1st Class
P/KX161479
Aged 84
Submarine service 1943-1946
In
Unison, Unbending
&
Sea Devil



Blackpool Branch
March 2009
W(Bill) Woodhouse
Telegraphist
P/JX 371851
Aged 82
Submarine service 1951-1955
in
Scorcher, Selene, Solent,
Astute, Tudor
&
Teredo



Non Member
March 2009
Penhiligon
Ordnance Artificer
Submarine service including
Oracle



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**Irena Sendler**

There recently was a death of a 98 year-old lady named Irena. During WWII, Irena, got permission to work in the Warsaw Ghetto, as a Plumbing/Sewer specialist. She had an 'ulterior motive' ... She KNEW what the Nazi's plans were for the Jews, (being German.) Irena smuggled infants out in the bottom of the tool box she carried and she carried in the back of her truck a burlap sack, (for larger kids.) She also had a dog in the back that she trained to bark when the Nazi soldiers let her in and out of the ghetto.

The soldiers of course wanted nothing to do with the dog and the barking covered the kids/infants noises. During her time of doing this, she managed to smuggle out and save 2500 kids/infants. She was caught, and the Nazi's broke both her legs, arms and beat her severely. Irena kept a record of the names of all the kids she smuggled out and kept them in a glass jar, buried under a tree in her back yard.

After the war, she tried to locate any parents that may have survived it and reunited the family. Most of course had been gassed. Last year Irena was up for the Nobel Peace Prize ... She was not selected.

Al Gore won, for a slide show on Global Warming.

April 2009

Members Birthdays

J. Dalton	01/04
A. Hookway	02/04
W. Lorking	03/04
D. Taylor	08/04
D. Lowe	09/04
R. Anderson	10/04
R. Hiseman	12/04
P. Wadding	12/04
K. Williams	13/04
T. Nimmo	14/04
A. Pitts	15/04
J. Hart	18/04
S. May	18/04
D. Barker	23/04
G. Buxton	24/04
J. Houlding	29/04



www.rnsubmus.co.uk

**News Letter****Contact Information**

Do you have a story to tell or have information you feel should appear in the news letter then ring Ben Britten on 01229 820265 (evenings) or if you wish to send me an article please ring for postal address. or send your contribution by e-mail to:

Rwbritten1@msn.com

Constructive suggestions about the news letter are very welcome. The news letter will be published in the last week of each month IE last week of April for the May 2009 issue please try and have any information with me by the **15th of each month.** Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition.

**SOCIAL CALENDAR 2009 - LOOK AHEAD**

April	May	June
7th Annual General meeting	2/3 Army/Navy Rugby	2nd Monthly Meeting
11th Annual Dinner	5th Monthly meeting	16th Branch Committee Meeting
Dance	8/10 Spring Cruise	19th Cheese & Wine
21st Committee meeting	19th Committee Meeting	

**Bits**

Experiance is a wondedrful thing. It enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again

Opportunities Always look bigger going than coming.

For every action there is an equal and opposite government program



Solve the submarine crossword

We hope you enjoyed last month's submarine wordsearch.

If any of it proved tricky, the solution is at the foot of the page.

This month we return to a crossword with 14 clues to solve with a submarine and nautical flavour.

If you have any comments or suggestions on how our puzzles can be improved or developed, drop an email to Bill Myers at bill.myers@nwemail.co.uk

Down

- 1: Explosive shellfish
- 2. Underwater boat in miniature
- 3: Sub named after Queen's second son
- 4: Clever person and submarine class
- 5: Sent to the bottom deliberately
- 6: Plenty of this in sea water
- 7: Every new boat goes before the judge

Across

- 8: How far can we go?
- 9. A friend and a naval rank
- 10: Short name for Schorkel mast
- 11: Keep this down to be safe
- 12: Means of communication
- 13: Abbreviation for explosive
- 14: Midget sub not out of place in Ben-Hur



Last month's wordsearch solution

