

BARROW SA BRANCH OFFICIALS

December 2009 Issue 114 Submariners Association WS Barrow-in-Furness Branch

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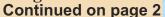
December Puzzle no 15

Astute Pictures



Chairman's Chaplain's Dit December 2009

been clearing my have computer of all those files that have long been done and dusted and came across my Dit for December 2007. It's surprising how similar and also dissimilar my thoughts are now as they were then. Yes there is the increasing pace normal of Christmas festivities. I was in Askam Village School this morning alongside our music room, as our fledgling violinists and flutists, scraped their way through several renditions of Silent Night. I can assure you that the music room was more raucous than silent, and a passing member of staff with her hands clamped tightly over her ears was heard to say. "Oh my goodness it must be that time of year again". I am now frantically looking for my Ho! Ho! Ho! Costume as I am already penciled in for three at two different bookings schools, nothing new there.







I am now frantically looking for my Ho! Ho! Ho! Costume as I am already penciled in for three different bookings at two schools, nothing new there. Yet for the Barrow Branch there have been changes over the past two years, some of the thoughts and aspirations we then held have now become realities. We have at long last moved out of "The Harbour" and are now billeted in the British Legion and so far so good. The Remembrance Benches are now in their permanent homes in Remembrance Garden along-Emlyn Hughes side the Building. As your Lay Chaplain I felt honoured to lead part of the Dedication Service. Whilst on the subject our time honoured Remembrance CD "We will remember them". Has been converted into a DVD and was used for the first time this November. As expected there is still some work to do and Ben Britten is currently in discussion with the Evening Mail DVD production team, to seek their advice on making our DVD "The son of we will remember them" more professional. If there are any comments on how improvements may be made to our DVD please don't hesitate to contact any members of the Committee.

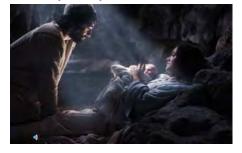


Alan Jones & Michael Cundell standard bearers Rememberance Sunday

The long awaited departure of Astute has taken place, and we shall miss the presence of the crewmembers at our monthly meeting. So we wish them "Bon Voyage" as they now face months of sea trials as they move towards becoming fully operational.

Joan Cole has volunteered to help drive forward the idea of forming a Ladies and Friends section of the Barrow Branch. The first steps are to invite a party Widows and Friends to our "Christmas Bit of a Do" that is being held in the Royal British Legion Holker Street 19th December 2009. My I now take the opportunity to thank all members who work so hard to make our Branch the success that it is. And wish a happy Christmas and a Prosperous New year to all who are reading this newsletter.

For me the true meaning of Christmas is summed up in an image taken from the film The Nativity Story



One Family: One Journey: One Child: Who would change the world forever.

Regards Jonsey

If you can help with the info below please contact Ron Hiseman.

Hello Ron,

Thank you for your prompt reply. The reason I am looking for families of Tetrarch crew members is to try and find information or even photos of my father who was the gunlayer on the boat when she was sunk in 1941.I have tried the submarine museum at Gosport with no luck, also have been corresponding with a Geoff Smith whose father was a crew member but was posted from the boat just before they sailed from Alexandria on their last trip,he was to have rejoined at Gibraltar, but the boat never arrived. A lucky escape! I am now grabbing at straws, in the hope you can help.

Thank you in anticipation

Bill

Editor

May I thank everyone that has at some point during this year made a contribution to the branch newsletter, with more members than ever making such a contribution we seem to have settled down to a 10 or more page edition with more colour pictures being sent to me. I also thank the Evening mail for there continued support with submarine related stories and pictures being freely given for publication in the newsletter.

If you have a story or picture for publication in the newsletter please send them on to me as require.

May I also wish readers where ever you are a very merry Christmas Regards Ben Britten

French Nukes For Brazil

After over a year of negotiations, Brazil and France have nailed down an agreement that will give Brazil four French dieselelectric Scorpene submarines, and technology from France to enable the construction of, in effect, a fifth, nuclear powered, "Scorpene". This is described as a strategic defense alliance, which involves France helping demand for French weapons in Brazil. In return, with French help, Brazil will complete development a nuclear power plant small enough to fit into something like the new, 4,700 ton French Barracuda nuclear attack subs. France considers the 100 meter long Barracuda an evolution of the 66.4 meter long Scorpene. At least this is how it was explained to the Brazilians. The 1,400 ton Scorpene subs cost \$600 million each, while the new French Barracuda nuclear powered subs cost \$1.6 billion each.





Barrow Submarine Series: issue number 8



JOURNEY'S END: The Royal Navy nuclear submarine *HMS Vanguard* arrives at Devonport naval base in Plymouth for a refit in February, 2002

HMS Vanguard (S28) is the 10th vessel of the Royal Navy to bear the name and is the lead boat of her class of Trident ballistic missile-armed submarines.

The sub is based at HMNB Clyde, Faslane and was built at Barrow by Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Ltd.

Vanguard was launched on March 4 in 1992 and commissioned on August 14 in 1993.

It was the biggest submarine ever built in Britain.

The first hull section of *Vanguard* had provided the dramatic backdrop to then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher as she opened Barrow's Devonshire Dock Hall in September 1986.

Hundreds of people lined Michaelson Road in August 1993 to watch Vanguard leave Barrow ready for the official handing over to the Royal Navy.

The submarine's first commanding officer was Captain David Russell.

In February 2002, *Vanguard* began a two-year refit at HMNB Devonport.

The refit was completed in June 2004 and in October 2005, *Vanguard* completed her return to service trials with the firing of an unarmed Trident missile.

During this refit, *Vanguard* was illegally boarded by a pair of antinuclear protestors.

On the night between February 3 and 4 in 2009 *Vanguard* and the French nuclear submarine *Triomphant*



SOUVENIR: A bronze medal for the Vanguard-class submarine refit facility dated 2002

collided somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean.

On February 6 the French Ministry of Defence reported that *Triomphant* "collided with an immersed object (probably a container)."

The UK Ministry of Defence initially would not comment that the incident took place but it was confirmed on February 16 by First Sea Lord Sir Jonathon Band.

He said that the collision occurred at low speed, and that there had been no injuries.

Both vessels were damaged. *Vanguard* received damage to the outer

casing in the area of the missile compartment on the starboard (right) side.

STATS:

Ordered: 30 May 1986

Builder: Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Limited, Barrow.

Laid down: 3 September 1986 Launched: 4 March 1992

Commissioned: 14 August 1993

Homeport: HMNB Clyde

Displacement: Dived: 15,680 long tons

(17,560 short tons)

Length: 149.9 m (491 ft 10 in)

Beam: 12.8 m (42 ft 0 in)

Draught: 12 m (39 ft 4 in)

Propulsion: 1 × Rolls-Royce PWR2 nuclear reactor

 $2 \times GEC$ turbines

1 × shaft pump jet

27,500 hp (20.5 MW)

2 × auxiliary retractable propulsion motors

 $2\times W$ H Allen turbo generators 6 MW

2 × Paxman diesel alternators

 $2 \times 2,700 \text{ hp } (4 \text{ MW})$

Speed: Dived: 25 knots (46 km/h; 29

mph)
Range: Essentially unlimited

Complement: 14 officers and 121 other ratings

Armament: 4×21 in (533 mm) torpedo tubes

16 × ballistic missile tubes Spearfish torpedoes

16 × Lockheed Trident D5 SLBMs carrying up to 128 warheads



Barrie Downer Secretary

Another short notice dit this everything month I had organised and then all of a sudden I get diverted to Faslane for a few days and not for a **Submariners Association Week**end for work instead. Most of you will have noticed that HMS **ASTUTE** has finally sailed off on Sea Trials and is operating from Faslane she still needs a lot support from Barrow of during the Sea Trial phase often unpredictable what will be asked for hence short notice changes of programme.

The departure of ASTUTE means quite a few of our Members have gone back to sea some after quite a long period ashore in Barrow and we wish them all well as they begin to get to grips with their new Submarine and get their sea legs back in working order.

What have we been doing in this last month? The monthly Committee Meeting took place on 17th November and we reviewed the minutes of the last meeting which all of you on E Mail should now have received any comments to me as soon as possible please! Two more new members this month welcome to Simon Hutton now working in the Yard and Steve Thorpe a serving Member and Coxswain of HMS AMBUSH. I am hopefully of a few more as well in the near future. Hopefully you are all working on recruiting new members are or serving retired submariners living or working close to you?

Are they Members? If not why not? Invite them to come to a Branch meeting to see what we do no obligations but it might just encourage them to join us.

The Branch Ladies Night Dinner Dance at the Lisdoonie on Friday 6th went off very well. The organisation was up to the usual excellent standard our Guest of Honour Tim Roberts (president of the Morecambe Bay Branch) gave a good and witty speech and toasted the Ladies who all looked as beautiful as ever. Billy Daniels and Brian gave an outstanding performance as far as the music was concerned and everyone enjoyed themselves with the dancing.

The Annual Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 8th November took place in fine weather to suit the occasion.

Thanks to the Co-op Funeral Service for the use of the cars to pick up Members unable to march in the Parade but who were enabled to attend at the Cenotaph. Our number this year were well up to our usual standard – I think it was twenty four Marching with several more joining us at the Cenotaph and even more Members meeting us at the RBL.

platoon from the HMS AMBUSH Ships Company took part in the Parade this year - one Officer, four Senior Rates and five Junior Rates and they joined us at the RBL for the Remembrance Ceremony. This years Submariners Remembrance Ceremony included the first showing of the video version of George Luck's poem. A lot of effort has been put into this by Alan Jones it seemed to go down well. It still needs a little polishing (as Alan will readily admit) but we now have another year to get the final version organised. Hopefully every one got their Pie and Peas to help to soak up the Tot!

On Monday 9th November we finally got to dedicate our Memorial Benches in the Coronation Gardens. The Council their Contractors had managed to get them in place before the Remembrance Day Parade but there was not enough time to arrange the dedication before Remembrance Sunday but they were there and dedicated before Remembrance Day ob the 11th November. Our small ceremony was attended by eight of our Members, several of the ladies - including Joyce Tull, Joan Cole and Denise Tierney and we were joined by the Mayor and Mayoress. We even got covered by the BBC and the North West Evening Mail.

There was a nice article in the Evening Mail on the Tuesday and, on 11th November you may have been lucky enough to hear the interviews on the Radio well done Mick Dack, Ted Budgen, Alan Jones and Alan West



The Dedication Ceremony



Chatting to the Mayor

In the end only five from the Derby Branch managed to visit Barrow 13th to 15th November in response to their invitation by HMS AMBUSH (Derby is their adoptive town!) to have a look at the Yard and how AMBUSH is progressing.

They stayed at the Victoria Park Hotel and there was a small 'meet and greet' at the VPH on Friday 13th November – several of the AMBUSH Team and myself attended. They picked a good weekend as well as seeing AMBUSH they got a ringside seat for the ASTUTE move though the Docks System to Ramsden Dock on Saturday 14th. Hopefully a good number of you also got to see the ASŤUTE move and the on Sunday departure 15th November







The Branch visit to Faslane arranged for 20th to 22nd November was, unfortunately, cancelled owing to reduced numbers and the fact that we were the only Branch going. However you can all get another chance to go to Faslane in January for the K13 weekend. We have the details and the list will be out soon.

Tex Golding has sent us an update for this year asking for a final settlement of his years Branch Subs you will receive a reminder shortly so if you've forgotten up to now stick your hand in your pocket at the next meeting and make Mick Mailey's day! You can pay any member of the Committee!

The Membership Cards for 2010 have arrived and are now with Mick Mailey. The 2010 Subs are due from 1st Jan 2010 but if you see Mick with your subs at the next meeting on 1st December you can get in early and get your new Membership Card and some of you can also get your 2009 card the nice Lilac ones (or was it Mauve?).

We are gradually catching up with an updated Members Contact List if you have moved, changed your phone number or your e mail provider please let us know as soon as possible so that we can keep in touch and make sure you get all your Branch information. I expect there are a few more changes I don't yet know about so don't be shy let me know! We can't keep everyone fully informed if we don't know how to get hold of you!

Another Reminder – if you have anything you wish to see raised

on/or voted on at the Annual National Council Conference we need to know by the December Meeting. The target date for any agenda Items is 31st Dec 2009 with the National Secretary. Also, for the next Annual Conference there are three posts on the NMC available. If you want to make your voice heard and put yourself up for election your CV needs to be with the National Secretary by the same date. Come on put your name

forward don't be shy! Also if you can't make it to a Branch Meeting remember to send in your apologies partly so we still know you are well. If you are not keeping too well yourself let us know and we will see if there is anything the Welfare team can help with. Remember to let us know if there are any Branch Members that you know (or wives, girlfriends partners) who are not too well sometimes they may be too busy or pre-occupied with events to let us know themselves. If we don't know we can't help!

That's about it for now hopefully I haven't missed out any events or anybody's names I think all the dates are right as well! See you all at the Branch Meeting Tuesday 1st December usual time usual place!

Regards

Barrie



All at Sea

America's strategic submarine fleet, armed with Trident II ballistic missiles, spends more time these days in the deep sea than they did during the Cold War.

Propeller The Federation of American Scientists (FAS) has published information indicating that 14 American Ohio class submarines conducted 31 deterrent patrols in 2008 which lasted, for every submarine, longer than during the years of the US-USSR military stand-off.

If some twenty years ago American submarines were spending 50-70% of the year offshore, nowadays it could be as high as 90% of the year.

Such extensive use of submarines has become possible after introducing a two-crew system, when Blue and Gold crews replace each other after every patrol, thus making it possible to stay on alert status practically all year long.

Annually, the American nuclear submarine fleet conducts more patrols than Russian (2008 – three times the number of patrols of the Russian navy), French, Great Britain's and the Chinese combined, though it must be noted that the Chinese are just preparing to put their nuclear submarines on deterrent patrols.

Whilst we wish Dave Barlow and the National Management Committee a Merry Xmas

Do you have any old pictures around for the newsletter like this one showing the Submariners Association National Chairman, Dave Barlow during his day with Sovereign. Along with Jan Mounce & Woody Woodward





Last Kilo Limps Home

November 25, 2009: The Black Sea Fleet Russian suffered a major blow when its only operational submarine, a 19 year old Kilo class boat, broke down at sea on November 21st and limped back to port on partial power. The only other sub in the fleet, a 29 year old Tango class boat, it undergoing repairs (and appears likely to continue doing so for some time.) During the Cold War, the Black Sea Fleet had thirty or more submarines.



The Black Sea Fleet is a pretty ragtag outfit, equipped with Cold War leftovers (the Kilo class sub was the youngest major ship it has). Most of the fifteen major surface ships are in need of repair, or not able to leave port at all. Some of the twenty minesweepers and missile equipped patrol boats date from the 1990s, but for the most part, the Black Sea Fleet is a rest home for Cold War relics.

government recently ordered the navy to concentrate on building new ships for the Black and Baltic Seas, instead of planning a high seas aircraft carrier fleet. The Black Sea fleet has been continually declining since the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991. That decline was the result of new countries (like Ukraine and Georgia) inheriting old Soviet ships and bases. That was the dissolution deal. Whatever Soviet weapons or bases were normally were, belonged to one of the 14 new nations. Most of Russia's high seas ships were based in northern Russia (the Northern fleet, based next to Finland and Norway) or the Far East (the Pacific fleet, based north of China and North Korea). But the Baltic and Black Sea fleets were largely based in ports that were now part of a foreign

nation. Russia negotiated a lease on their large naval base in Sevastopol, but that lease expires in eight years, and is not going to be renewed. So Russia is building a new base to the east, on the Russian Black Sea coast.

For over a century, Russia had four fleets (Northern, Pacific, Baltic and Black Sea). The latter two were virtually destroyed by the dissolution. But now Russia is having political problems (largely caused by Russia) with Georgia and Ukraine, and could really use some additional (and modern) naval power. To a lesser extent, the same situation applies in the Baltic (where Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania harbored, and often built, many of the Soviet ships of the Baltic fleet.) Poland, while not part of the Soviet Union, was a major naval ally, as was East Germany. Thus the Baltic fleet is a fraction of what it once was, and needs rebuilding

HMS TRAFALGAR



Submarine's final sailing to base

HMS Trafalgar was the first of her class of hunter-killer submarines The Royal Navy's nuclear-powered submarine HMS Trafalgar has sailed into its Devon base for the final time.

Devonport-based Trafalgar is the fifth Royal Navy vessel to bear the historic name and was the first British submarine to circumnavigate the globe.

Its return was marked with a flypast by a navy Merlin helicopter.

Trafalgar will become the ninth decommissioned submarine to be stored in Plymouth while an ongoing MoD study decides how to dispose of them.

HMS Trafalgar, which can have a complement of up to 130 officers and crew, was the first of what was a fleet of seven Trafalgar class nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarines.

It was built at the Barrow-in-Furness yard of Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering and was launched in July 1981.

An official decommissioning ceremony will take place on 4 December. It will be the first vessel of her class to be taken out of service.

Her commanding officer, Commander Charlie Shepherd, said the final home coming was a poignant moment.

He said: "The feeling of everyone, including me, as we came in for the final time was a mixture of pride and sorrow."

He added that there was a feeling of sadness "because this is the last time the submarine will be operational and some sailors who have been on board for up to seven years will miss their occupational home".

"Close-knit submarines are almost families and this community will be broken up," he said.

Its company will be assigned to new submarines, including HMS Ambush and other Trafalgar class submarines, the navy said.

XMAS SOCIAL

Submariners wifes currently on their own over the Xmas period and wish to attend the Xmas Social on the 19th December at the Royal British Legion

Please contact Joan Cole on 01229 826818





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 November to have 'Crossed the Bar'



Norfolk Branch
November 2009
J E (Ted) Woodcock
Engine Room Artificer
C/MX 76463
Aged 88
Submarine Serive 1941-1946
P611, Perla, P712, Osiris
Sealion, Unruly & U-1105



Derby Branch
Founder member & President
4th November 2009
John Eric Horton DSM
Chief Engine Room Artificer
P/MX 56640
Aged 94
Submarine Service 1937-1950
Clyde, P39, Trump, Umbra,
Unbending, United, Unruffled
&
Alaric



Non Member 4th November 2009 Jonathan A Burch CBE

Rear Admiral (MESM)

Submarine service including Warspite & Swiftsure



Non Member
27th September 2009
David Sidney Stolliday
Petty Officer Telegraphist
Aged 85
Submarine Service 1943-1954
Sealion (1943), H50(1943),
Spirit (1943-1945), Tiptoe
(1946), Token (1947),
Sidar(1950, Thorough(1952)



Non Member November 2009 Gordon (Tommy) Tucker Chief Stoker Aged 65

Submarine Service in "O" Boats



Non Member November 2009 'Wolfie' Attwood

Submarine Service to be Advised



Non Member
November 2009
D J D (Lemmy) Strang
Lieutenant Commander
Submarine Service 1950's &
1960's in S Boats and CO of
Cachalot

Its all in the Game

The British Navy is to use PlayStation Portables, to help train its officers. Engineering personnel, responsible for maintaining the fleet's radar, sonar and communications systems, are the first to use the gadgets. If the trial proves successful, other sailors will also

get a chance to play.

The PSPs are being used to help officers revise for exams and come preloaded with slides and commentary prepared by instructors, in study packages of between eight and twelve minutes each.

Lieutenant-Commander Mark 'Beasty' Williams, the man behind the trial, says: "On most ships, the space people have is quite small. Many have bunks with just a couple of feet [of space] above. This is the sort of thing that can be used in a bunk space."

The Royal Navy weapons engineering school has so far bought 230 PSPs for the trial, but some senior officers appear unconvinced of the need for electronic study aids: "We are working on the premise that looking at a book is now seen as boring," and Commander Trevor Price. "When I was at school you sat at your desk and you did your work and that was it."

But he added that he supposed training had to adapt for a generation that 'no longer naturally studied from books'.

Oh what a tangled language English is And how easy it is to misconstrue...

A man takes a lady out to dinner for the first time. Later they go on to a show. The evening is a huge success and as he drops her at her door he says 'I have had a lovely time. You looked so beautiful, you remind me of a beautiful rambling rose. May I call on you tomorrow?'

She agrees and a date is made. The next night he knocks on her door and when she opens it she slaps him hard across the face. He is stunned.

'What was that for?' he asked.

She said 'I looked up rambling rose in the encyclopaedia last night and it said 'Not well suited to bedding but is excellent for rooting up against a garden wall'



DISCLAIMER

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So there's this matelot dancing around Jo's. He spots (unbelievably) a nice looking bird in the corner. He asks her if she'd like a drink to which she replies, "To be honest do you just fancy taking me home?"So he takes her home and get's invited in, she asks, "Do you mind me asking, but are you a sailor?"

At this point he knows he has blown it but tells her that he is indeed a sailor "Oh that's great, my grandaddy was a sailor you're the first one I've ever met! Do you smoke?"

Well Jack's over the moon and he answers yes whereby she goes out into the kitchen and brings out 100 Blue Liners! "You can have these if you like, I don't smoke and they've been in the cupboard for ages! Do you drink?"

Well Jack asks for a lager but she comes back with a bottle of pussers rum.

At this point he looks up to the heaven and thanks the God of Jack for this goldmine! "Do you mind if I slip into something more comfortable" she asks to Jack's delight

When she returns she is wearing a see through nightie with every RN ship, past and present on the hem. Jack can't believe his luck now, then she purrs at him "Do you want to come through to the bedroom and play a Little game?"

Jack replies

"You got UCKERS as well!?



L. I hwaites	02/12
P. Douglas	03/12
G. Livingston	06/12
M.Brown	15/12
M.Dack	17/12
K. Collins	19/12
D. Taylor	23/12
N. Morrison	27/12
S. Doughty	28/12
D.Carter'	29/12
C.Lee	31/12
T.Payne	31/12

www.hmsresolution.org.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 December for the January 2010 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

October

6th Monthly meeting 9/11 SA Reunion w/e 17th Trafalgar Ball 20th Branch commitee meeting

November

1st Embankment 3rd Monthly Meeting 6th Ladies Night 8th Remembrance parade

••••••

December

1st Monthly meeting

15th Branch Committee
Meeting

19th Xmas Social

New members Joining in

November

Simon Hutton & Steve Thorpe

A warm welcome to you all





Solve the festive submarine wordsquare

We hope you enjoyed last month's submarine wordsquare.

If any of it proved tricky, the solution is at the foot of the page. This month we have a Christmas-themed wordsquare with 12 words to be found on the grid.

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 Names and words to find

1: CRANBERRY

2: SPICE

3: BRANDY SAUCE

4: PUDDING

5: CRACKER

6: PARSNIPS

7: SPROUTS

8: PRESENTS

9: RUM BUTTER

10: CHESTNUTS

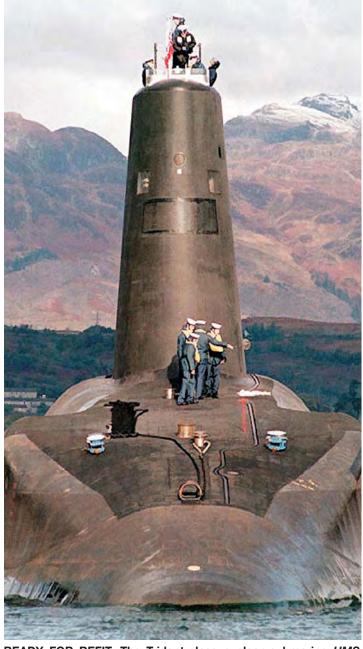
11: SHERRY

12: TURKEY



Last month's worsquare solution (below)





READY FOR REFIT: The Trident-class nuclear submarine HMS Vanguard seen in 2002 on the way to Plymouth for a refit



















