May 2010 Issue 119

news etter

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CHAIRMAN'S May Word



Its early Monday morning I have recovered from the weekend activities namely the Dinner

Dance: a Preaching Appointment: and an invitation to a family Christening. I am sitting at my computer as I was requested by Ben on Saturday evening to write the front page Dit in place of John. As we all know John and Shona's return flight from Spain was delayed in Spain due to the eruption of the Icelandic Volcano. The gas man I knew was coming to fit me a new central heating boiler but I did not know that the washing machine was going to "jack its hand in" so now it's Tuesday morning. Spoke to Shona yesterday afternoon who told me that they were made very welcome by our Spanish **Branch Colleagues.**

So John's idea of visiting Spain was a good one and I have no doubt that it could be the first of many. The down side was they endured a forty five hour coach trip on a coach with very little leg room.. And Shona was in pain from a very nasty insect bite on her foot. Fortunately the tablets have kicked in and she is now very much better as of vesterday when I spoke to her. The numbers for the Dinner Dance were greatly reduced in fact I did a head count and made it forty one members and guests. We did not have a Guest Speaker as he was stuck out at sea, (that's the problem with inviting a matelot), so formalities were set aside, and the evening was a little brighter for no speech. Whilst it was agreed that it was a good evening, such low turn outs are not sustainable in the long run. However it was felt that if such an event cancelled. It becomes extremely difficult to breathe new life into it.

Continued on page 2





I must add that a generous raffle helped save the day. The committee will look into the problem of low numbers over the next few meetings. So if anyone has any suggestions for any changes that could be introduced, please contact us. I will end on a positive note and say a big thankyou to the members who were able to attend Barrow's St George's Day Parade. Also I want to add that we are getting our act together for the Festival of the Sea in June plus the K to B and volunteers are required.

Regards Jonsey



- 1 Chairman's Dit
- 2) Chaplains Dit
- 3) INS Gal
- 4) Barrie Downer Secretary
- 5) HMS Sceptre
- 6) Espana Levanta
- 7) Obits
- 8) General info
- 9) Espana Levanta pictures

Puzzle page no 20

Chaplains Dit

The gas man and the washing machine incident at my house, reminded me of a Flanders & Swann duet that I heard many moons ago. The lyrics summarises my manic day.

Twas on a Monday morning the gas man came to call. The gas tap wouldn't turn I wasn't getting gas at all. He tore out all the skirting boards to try and find the main And I had to call a carpenter to put them back again. Oh, it all makes work for the working man to do.

'Twas on a Tuesday morning the carpenter came round. He hammered and he chiselled and he said:"Look what I've found: your joists are full of dry rot But I'll put them all to rights". Then he nailed right through a cable and out went all the lights! Oh, it all makes work for the working man to do.

'Twas on a Wednesday morning the electrician came. He called me Mr. Sanderson, which isn't quite the name. He couldn't reach the fuse box without standing on the bin And his foot went through a window so I called the glazier in. Oh, it all makes work for the working man to do.

'Twas on a Thursday morning the glazier came round With his blow torch and his putty and his merry glazier's song. He put another pane in it took no time at all But I had to get a painter in to come and paint the wall. Oh, it all makes work for the working man to do.

'Twas on a Friday morning the painter made a start. With undercoats and overcoats he painted every part: Every nook and every cranny but I found when he was gone He'd painted over the gas tap and I couldn't turn it on! Oh, it all makes work for the working man to do.

On Saturday and Sunday they do no work at all; So 'twas on a Monday morning that the gasman came to call...

Regards Jonsey



Senior Moments

Despite the high cost of living it remains popular.

Money isn't everything but it sure keeps the kids in touch.

No one is ever old enough to know better.

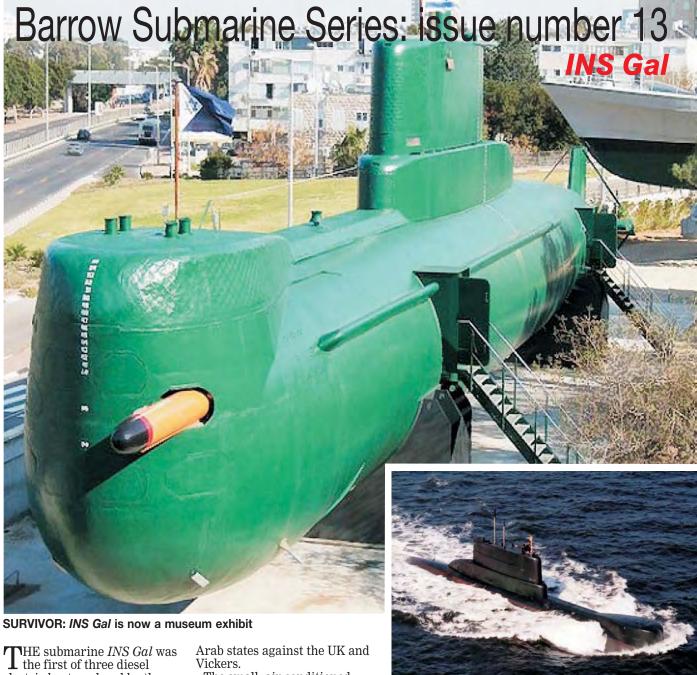
Happy hour is a nap

Members attending the St. Georges Day parade Sun. 25th April. Ginge Cundell standard bearer, John Hart, Barrie Downer, John Smith, Alan West









electric boats ordered by the Israeli government in April

She was built by Vickers at Barrow to the design of the German company

Howaldstwerke Deutche Werft.

The build was overseen by German representatives under a collaboration agreement.

It was a politically sensitive contract because of Britain's need to perform a diplomatic balancing act with Arab nations.

The contract was just known as the "540 project" around the yard.

News didn't get out until 1977 when three of the crew from the second boat, Tanin, were killed in a road crash visiting a training facility in Scotland.

It prompted a boycott by the

The small, air-conditioned boats were 48.9m long and displaced 640 tons underwater and had a crew of 23.

Speed on the surface was 11 knots and 17 knots submerged.

Armament was eight 21-inch multi-purpose torpedo tubes.

They were later adapted to deploy Sub Harpoon Cruise Missiles.

INS Gal was laid down on December 4 in 1972 and was launched on December 2 in 1975.

Their small size made them very difficult to detect as did the blue/green paint to aid concealment in the clear waters of the eastern Mediterranean.

INS Gal was taken out of service in 2003 and is now on show at Haifa.

FINAL CHECKS: The Israeli submarine Gal on sea trials in Scotland



LAUNCH DAY: INS Gal seen at Barrow in 1975



Barrie Downer Secretary

Well hasn't it been a funny month! Volcanoes erupting, aeroplanes not flying, general election campaigns, dry weather for a change and spring finally arriving!

The 47th Annual General Meeting was a bit longer than the average Monthly Meeting but there was a lot of business to get through!

We had our standard Committee Member Reports and also a debrief by John Hart on the events at the National Council Conference in Weymouth. As it turns out I am still your Secretary for the next three years – as there were no other volunteers for the post we didn't need a vote but the show of hands in my favour was encouraging thank you all I presume I must be doing something right!

All the other Branch Committee Members remain in post so, again, I assume that you are all content with the way the Branch is being managed.

After all the planning for the visit to Spain to meet up with the Espana Levante Branch last weekend I don't think that anyone could have anticipated the problems which arose at the last minute with a few members managing to get out to Spain but most getting stuck in UK. John Houlding got to Spain and has been stuck there since and, hopefully, made it back in time for the Ladies Night. Members and their wives who were looking forward to a Spring Break in Spain must feel very disappointed.

Branch plans were also disrupted by events as we deferred the monthly Committee Meeting until after everyone got back from Spain. The Committee Meeting was moved to 27th April when we reviewed the Minutes of the AGM meeting. As we now distribute the Minutes earlier to coincide with

the earlier issue of the Branch Newsletter the AGM Minutes you see will be the Draft version. If you have any comments on the AGM Minutes (when you get them and have read them!) send them to me as soon as possible please but, as usual, you can always raise any points at the May Branch Meeting!

Hopefully you have all received the May News Letter a week earlier than usual which should ensure distribution by both E Mail and Snail Mail in advance of the Branch Meeting. Feedback to date indicates that the earlier distribution of the Newsletter and Minutes is appreciated!

For those who haven't got your Membership Cards for 2010 they are available from Mick Mailey. Subs are still only £10 so at the next Branch Meeting on 4th May you can get your new Membership Card. You can also send your Subs by post to me or Mick Mailey and we can then get your new Cards sent out.

We need you to get your Subs paid up as soon as possible as the National Subs had to be paid by March in accordance with National Rules. We are now paid up to the National so if you haven't paid yet then by the rules we could lapse your Membership at the end of the current year. If you think about it you get a good deal for your £10 - Monthly Minutes, Monthly Newsletters, Quarterly National Newsletters, Social events and don't forget that being paid up is a pre-requisite for attendance at the Reunion Dinner!

I have recently updated the Members Contact List this time for two new Members these are returning Member Dickie Cambridge and new member Hank Hancox who has recently joined the MoD Team in the Shipyard!

The updated Contact List for our 189 Members now includes all recent 'E' Mail changes and some updated addresses. 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!

The number of Members now on E Mail has increased again and speeds up the distribution of Minutes, News Letters and general Branch information. Can I make another plea for those of you who have provided BAE 'E Mail' addresses to let me know your home 'E Mail' address (if you have one) as soon as possible.

As I have reported before BAe have kindly (up to now) allowed us to distribute Branch information via their system but not during working hours but we mustn't take too much advantage and distribution via your home 'E Mail' is the way ahead!

Can all of those who have stories to tell send them in for us (either directly to Ben Britten or to me) to consider for publishing in the Branch News Letter possibly in the 'In Depth' Newsletter. Congratulations are due to Ben for all the effort put in by him for producing the Branch Newsletter and also to all of our contributors. Thank you all and keep the stories coming! Don't forget that you can also send your dits and stories to Ron Hiseman for publishing on the Branch Website!

And now my usual monthly plea if you are unable to attend a **Branch Meeting(s) remember to** send us your apologies. If you are not keeping too well 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 or former Members that you know (or their wives, girlfriends or 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!

Page 5



See you all at the Ladies Night Dinner Dance on 24th April, at the St George's Day Parade on 25th April and, of course at the May Branch Meeting Tuesday 4th May usual time usual place!

Regards

Barrie

HMS Sceptre

According to the British press HMS Sceptre has been patrolling off the Falkland Islands because of renewed tension between the UK and Argentina.

This is HMS Sceptre's final deployment as she is to be decommissioned at the end of this year. The Swiftsure-class submarine arrived on April 6 on a goodwill visit that the Royal Navy says reinforces the strong ties the Royal Navy already enjoys with the South African Navy.

The application to the South African National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) to approve the visit mentioned an 11-day visit, but the expected arrival date of mid-March was delayed. The NNR granted a Nuclear Vessel Licence to the SA Navy, which applied on behalf of the Royal Navy for the nuclear-powered submarines visit.

The SA Navy told the Digital Journal in an earlier interview that the Sceptre had been delayed by "operational requirements" but did not elaborate.

During the short stay, the crew took the opportunity to host a reception with the SA Navy and visited some of the SA Navy units. However, no joint exercises were conducted. Speaking to defence-Web aboard the submarine, the Commanding Officer, Commander Steve Waller, elaborated: "We were supposed to come here earlier, but due to operational reasons we were delayed. Because it's the Easter

stand down for the South African Navy and (they are) preparing for World Cup duties, we haven't been able to organise an exercise. It's just unfortunate timing at the end of the day." HMS Sceptre left her home port of Faslane in Scotland in October 2009 and the Cape Town visit is the end of her trip. She will be making her way home, arriving in the UK in a few months time. This is not the first time HMS Sceptre has visited Simon's Town. "I actually joined the submarine in December 2007 when she had just come back from visiting here," Waller said.Cape Town has a special significance for the Sceptre and the Royal Navy. The first HMS Sceptre was wrecked in Table Bay during November 1799 when her anchors dragged during a storm.

The fourth submarine built in the six-boat Swiftsure-class, Sceptre was commissioned on 14 February 1978, making her 32 years old. Equipped with five weapon tubes, her armament includes Spearfish torpedoes and Tomahawk cruise missiles. At present she is currently the oldest commissioned vessel in the Royal Navy still in active service and is to be decommissioned in December. She will be replaced by HMS Astute, the BAE Systems-built lead Astute class submarine.

Letters

This letter recently appeared in the Times as a response to various Army Generals speaking out on their view that a Trident successor is not needed and that the money would best be spent elsewhere

"Sir,

The OPPORTUNE letters from your four correspondents (http://www.timesonline.co.uk/t ol/comment/letters/article71040 04.ece), responding to the previous day's charge of the generals against the replacement for TRIDENT (http://www.timesonline.co.uk/t ol/news/politics/article7103318.e

ce), are the ideal REPULSE, a VERY light in the darkness indeed.

Nick Clegg is clearly out of his depth, and these old TROOP-ERs all at sea, when it comes to our SENTINEL, the nuclear deterrent. Let's hope there follows a THOROUGH, UNIVERSAL and SPLENDID debate, but at the slow march rather than at the double, an ALLIANCE of the TRUSTY, UNSWERVING in its VIRTUE.

The government must be both TIRELESS and ASTUTE and do its UTMOST as it searches for a RESOLUTION, and it must be VIGILANT so as to avoid VENGEANCE or REVENGE from any fifth column, UPSTART or SPITEFUL STATESMAN.

The UK must, however, remain in the VANGUARD for defence, with an UNRIVALLED weapon system of RENOWN, that would ensure this country is VICTORIOUS in deterring an enemy TRESPASSER in these TURBULENT times.

This letter is no ULTIMATUM, of course, and I hope it will be read in the SPIRIT intended, your UPRIGHT readers not feeling an URGE to be UNRULY at a TOKEN gesture to that UNIQUE UPHOLDER, the Royal Navy's submarine service.

Yours faithfully,

Lester May (Lieutenant-Commander RN - retired)







The Flag. sitting Geoff Mounsteven, Roy Baylis, Brian Busch, John Holding, Terry Hoyland Maurice Jamieson

ESPANA LEVANTE

What an eventful trip. Shona and I packed our bags and travelled to Blackpool to catch the 0700 flight to Alicante, perfect and what a stress free airport to travel from I would strongly recommend it.

We arrived and duly transferred to Benidorm in the shuttle bus to our hotel the Bristol Park, clean and tidy but almost entirely Spanish however it did us well.

After a short walk we almost fell into the Queens Hotel where we were to be hosted for the weekend. We asked if George Hockey was around to find he used his local name, JUD, over there but he was not in until the Friday. We returned to our hotel and found from the TV that something was amiss in Iceland and all airports all over the place were being closed. We had messages from Gordon Walker telling us they were still trying to get flights but then when they found it was not before Saturday they gave up. We also got a message in the Queens from Jeff Thomas saying their flight was cancelled on the Friday. So we spent a couple of days on our own getting the feel of the place tasting the Sangria (large jugs only) and the grub in the Queens which was in fact very passable.

We went to the Queens on

Friday about 1230 when we were expecting to start meeting up with the Espana Levante crowd, Bob Head was the first and he advised that Rog Parsons was at the Bristol Park and would be arriving shortly. More and more arrived and at about 1500 hours the meet and greet was declared open and Up Spirits was called. Only the best Woods 100 Rum - hic!!! Poored by the coxn George, sorry JUD Hockey.

Although our numbers were depleted it was agreed we should still visit the Rich Bitch showbar that evening.

Saturday lunch time arrived,? where did the evening go? hic !!!! and we all met for the Branch meeting. We now had three Barrow members Myself JUD and Red Skelton who had been in Spain since February and we were duly welcomed.

The Barrow Branch visiting Jolly Roger clearly was displayed behind the Chairman Secretary and Treasurer on the head table. No pun intended Head is secretary). After the meeting when they agreed the next meeting would be November but after the Spannish festivals had finnished we all exited for another Up Spirits hic. I crawled back to the hotel to change into fresh clothes for the Reunion Dinner and pick up The dinner went very well and started with yes another Up Spirits hic! After which the dit spinning went on into the early hours.

Many were mentioning others that they knew particularly Geoff Mountsteven who asked me to pass on his regards to our President John Hart who he knows very well and to Dudly Davenport who the whole world seem to know.

On Sunday we were to be picked up and taken out to the villa of Terry Hoyland for an afternooin of drinks and eats and what a spread he and Sue put on for us and what a good afternoon we had. One of Terry's neighbours later offered ot give us a liftback to our hotel which was about a half hour drive. Many thanks for that.

The Espana Levante boys dispersed leaving us to enjoy the next few days wondering if and how we might ever get home. We found a little pub near our hotel British owned, The owner asked where we were from and when we said Barrow he asked if we knew where the Strawberry pub was as had once run that establishment. To cap it all he made Shona very happy as he sold diet Irn Bru for her vodka hic!!

Time to panic now but at last on Tuesday evening we heard the airports were reopening. We had by then met up with another couple from Barrow (Hawcoat Lane) and agreed we should all go to the airport the next morning Wednesday which was our departure date anyway. We were told our flight was cancelled, no surprise there, but there may be a flight out that evening but we could only book 'on-line'! The airport internet station was of course not working xxphmt. However the next scheduled flight we could get seats on was Friday 30th April or we could put our names on a waiting list for a coach back though they had no information as to if they actually had a coach and would not know for several hours.



We opted to do both and luckily got seats on the coach departing at 1230 (local time). 38 hours later we arrived at Blackpool from Hotel to Home we travelled for 45 hours. But we are back.

We recommend the visit to Benidorm and the Espana Levante branch to anyone just make sure you can get home. Luckily they don't have too many volcanos errupting in Iceland so ours was hopefully a one off experience. By the way Red and Mrs Skelton send their greetings and will see everyone in Barrow in November for the Ladies Night Dinner Dance.

Regards

John and Shona

Russia to build submarine-detecting satellite

Russia could build a satellite for the detection and tracking of submarines from space, a defense industry spokesman said on Thursday, according to RIA Novosti.

Vladimir Boldyrev, of the Kosmonit science and technology center, said the group had developed a space satellite module that could carry out remote sensing of the sea and "detect submerged submarines."

"Hopefully, it will be tested in space as early as 2011," he said, adding that work on the module started over a decade ago.

He offered no indication as to when the new satellite would enter service with the Russian Armed Forces.

Boldyrev added that the dualuse module would be used for both defense and civilian purposes, in particular, providing meteorological data.

Senior Moment

The more you complain , the longer God makes you live

AFTER BEING MARRIED FOR 44 YEARS,

I took a careful look at my wife one day and said, "forty-four years ago we had a cheap flat, a cheap car, slept on a sofa bed and watched a 10-inch black and white TV, but I got to sleep every night with a hot 25-yearold "girl". Now I have a £500,000 home, a £30,000 car, nice big bed and plasma screen TV, but I'm sleeping with a 69 year-old woman. It seems to me that you're not holding up your side of things.' My wife is a very reasonable woman. She told me to go out and find a hot 25-year-old girl and she would make sure that I would once again be living in a cheap flat, driving a cheap car, sleeping on a sofa bed and watching a 10inch black and white TV. In that one sentence she had solved my mid-life crisis.

Sub Give away

The defense ministers of Montenegro and Slovenia will sign a contract in Podgorica for the giving away of a 1980 submarine. The P-911 submarine, which has been in the coastal town of Tivat in southwestern Montenegro since 1997, is being gifted to Slovenia as a museum piece.

The submarine is one of the six so-called "pocket submarines" produced for the needs of the Yugoslav Navy in the 1980s. They measure 18.8 meters in length, 2.7 in width and 3.4 meters in height. At the time of their production, it was said that, "in case of war [the submarines| could reach the shores of Italy and take demolition experts there to secretly create small minefields."In addition to the one that is to be gifted to Slovenia, Montenegro has three other such submarines. According to previous reports, the plan is to keep one of them in Tivat for the future nautical museum Porto in Montenegro and give the other two away to Serbia and Croatia, where they would also be displayed in museums.



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Able Seaman C J (Clifford) Alexander (New Zealand Branch) age 73 Served in SCOTSMAN & TACTICIAN

Able Seaman W M (Mike)
Barlow (Blackpool Branch)
age 87 Served (WWI) in
TRIBUNE, URSULA,
URTICA, THRASHER
&
SEANYMPH

Able Seaman J (James) Lindsay (Scotland North East Branch) age 86 Served (WWII) in SHALIMAR and SUBTLE

CPO Cook R H (Bob) Wishart (West of Scotland Branch) age 69 Served in FINWHALE, TOTEM, ANCHORITE, AMBUSH, RORQUAL & COURAGEOUS

Stoker Mechanic G P (George) Skipper (Northern Ireland Branch) age 82 Served in THULE and UPSTART

Lieutenant G P (Phillip) Evatt, RANVR (Non Member) age 87 Served (WWII) in UNITED, H32 and TAPIR

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 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.





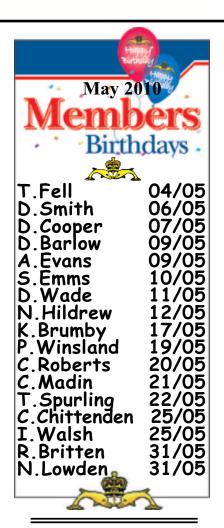
Intel and Microsoft Go To War

Now that the U.S. Navy has completed the A-RCI (Acoustic Rapid COTS Insertion) program to upgrade the sonar systems on all of its nuclear submarines, they are beginning to purchase TB-29A towed sonar arrays for their SSNs (attack boats). Ten TB-29As have been ordered so far, at a cost of \$3 million each. These arrays increase detection capability more than four times. This is especially useful in shallow water, against dieselelectric subs. In underwater combat, whoever gets spotted first, tends to lose.

The TB-29A uses the same COTS (Commercial off-The-Shelf) design as the recent sonar upgrade on American submarines. The A-RCI program involved more than installing faster computers and more memory. The sonar gear was modified so that it can more easily take advantage of new processors and memory developments. Since these items have been doubling in power, every 18-24 months, for over 40 years, it's about time. In the past, submarines often had sonar systems powered by decade old CPUs, and memory chips that were no longer manufactured. Fortunately, the navy is not alone in running ancient gear, so there were suppliers who bought up old CPUs and memory SIMMs, and sold the stuff to the navy. Sometimes, however, particularly old components could only be found on eBay.

The navy began the A-RCI program in 1998, but it has taken over a decade to debug the system and get the gear into 44 subs, as such major modifications could only be done when the boats came in for refueling (usually halfway through their careers) or for some other major repairs or maintenance. The new Virginia class boats have A-RCI built in.





www.hmsresolution.org.uk

NEW MEMBERS

Michael (Hank) Hancox Serving Member Submarine Production IPT

Richard (Dickie) Cambridge rejoining Member

A warm welcome to you all

DISCLAIMER

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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 May for the June 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.





May

Tuesday 4th Monthly Meeting 2000 RBL

Tuesday 18th Branch Committee Meeting 1930 RBL

June

Tuesday 1st Monthly Meeting 2000 RBL

Friday 18th Brewery run TBC

Tuesday 22nd Committee Meeting 1930 RBL





Research drinks



Roy Baylis and John



The boys



We live well in Spain



Our Ladies



John, Terry Hoyland, Bob Head



Dinner



Solve the monthly submarine quiz

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 clues based on Naval General Service Medal.

The most famous clasp which survivors could apply for was Trafalgar — but there were 230 others for actions ranging in date from 1793 to the end of the Napoleonic Wars.

A medal for Nelson's heroes

- 1. BASQUE ROADS
- 2. CAMPERDOWN
- 3. NICE
- 4. COPENHAGEN
- 5. CURACAO
- **6. MARTINIQUE**

- 7. ACRE
- 8. GUADALOUPE
- 9. ALGIERS
- 10. SYRIA
- 11. FISGARD
- 12. EGYPT

В	S	A	E	T	P	Y	G	E	A	N	B
E	A	R	E	C	S	C	E	P	W	N	A
L	C	Y	R	Y	A	A	0	U	W	1	S
A	0	1	R	1	S	A	D	0	E	L	Q
K	0	1	E	G	L	R	D	L	K	E	U
									W		
1	C	E	1	P	E	M	R	D	A	N	R
G	A	E	M	P	L	1	G	A	H	U	0
S	R	A	M	A	F	E	٧	U	A	G	A
S	U	A	P	E	F		S	G	A	R	D
R	C	0	P	E	N	H	A	G	E	N	S
C	H	E	U	Q	1	N	1	T	R	A	M

Last month's wordsquare solution (below)





AGE OF GLORY: The Naval General Service medal dated 1848 but for earlier service in the Napoleonic Wars