



**BARROW SA  
BRANCH OFFICIALS**

July 2010

Issue 121

Submariners Association

**newsletter**

Barrow-in-Furness Branch

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**CHAIRMAN'S  
July Word**



I am poised, once again in the front page seat attempting to deliver an article, in place of John Houlding. As you may know has been recently hospitalised for his long running ear infection. I can report that he is now at home and I have spoken to him. As he says he can now only play the waiting game to see if the problem has been finally cleared up, John also passed on his thanks for his well-wishers. He also informed me that Danny O'Connell was in hospital at the same time getting some work done on his knee so we wish Danny a speedy recovery. Talking to John reminded me that at the last committee meeting the perennial problem of outstanding settlement of Membership payments cropped up (in fact that there are some home members and ex pats that are adrift by almost twelve months). This in turn causes our Treasurer to have the difficult

task of balancing the books. As constitutionally we are committed as regular as day changes to night, to cough up annually to the National Association coffers, the appropriate coins of the realm for every member on our books. It was also discussed that a way around the problem was the possible introduction of direct debit payments. This approach comes with its own problems. John and Mick Mailey have volunteered to produce a report on the subject. Another item that needs addressing is any planning that is needed to celebrate our Fiftieth Anniversary (the one that we have been squirreling away our pennies for). It was first muted many moons ago in The Harbour, that we should do something special, back then we were looking at approximately 43800 hours to countdown, as of now, as I write, we have only 26280 left. Therefore we are now all being challenged to come up with ideas if we are to commemorate in a style that has been the hallmark of our Barrow Branch.

Continued on page 2



HM Submarine Storm





To this end the Branch Committee is looking to set up a dedicated Steering Group to help stimulate both the debate production of a feasible first class programme. To kick off the debate I have given the project work a name the “Quinquagesimus Annus”, I have no doubt that others will find an alternative.

Regards Jonsey  
Chairman

## Social Secretary

July 2010



Due to personal circumstances I have missed submitting copy for the last couple of newsletters, to be honest since the Annual dinner dance very little has happened on the Social Scene. My thanks go to Geoff and Jan who organised the Quiz night that took place at the last monthly meeting.

Our next Social event is the branch BBQ which is penciled in for 31st July at the Roose Cons club with the usual fare and Shindig providing entertainment, the cost is a very reasonable £ 7.50 per head. I say this event is penciled in because to date I have received only two responses to my e mail that was sent out and I have received no money for any tickets that have been requested, as with all events in order to cater for the correct numbers and to pay for the various items, I need money up front.

The recent lack of enthusiasm for social events is a matter of concern for myself and the committee, the annual dinner dance was poorly supported and it looks as if the BBQ is heading the same way, if it is not viable it will not be put on, this may of course be due to the current financial climate.

If you want to attend this event please contact me by phone 01229 474927 if I'm not in leave a message or e mail at moortarn@aol.com as soon as possible.

The big social event of the year will be the Ladies night dinner

dance on November 12th, the list is already in circulation and will be circulated at every meeting up to October so get your names down early, lets make this event a well attended success as it probably is the best social of the year.

Well that's all from me for this month.

See you all next month!!  
Colin Hutchinson  
Social Secretary

## HMS Astute



Astute has recently reached a major milestone in her sea trials programme by completing her first deep dive and full power work up. Preparations began with an extensive and arduous period of training by a team from Flag Officer Sea Training's (FOST) submarine safety experts. They tested the Ship's Company's ability to deal with every sort of emergency from fires to floods. All the hard work paid off and Astute was given approval to proceed to the next stage of sea trials.



The deep dive involved going down to the submarine's deep-diving depth (classified) and making sure that all the submarine's systems operated normally, which they did. The final test was to find out the submarine's top speed (classified) by running at full power for several hours. Again this trial was successful and Astute has now returned to her base port of Faslane to conduct a planned maintenance period before heading out to continue with the sea trials package again. 'This was a really busy period at sea for us and we achieved exactly what we set out to do. The Ship's Company passed their FOST assessment and we returned to Faslane on time, having completed a very successful trials period,' said Cdr Andy Coles, Astute's Commanding Officer. All the hard work paid off and Astute was given approval to proceed to the next stage of sea trials.



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Puzzle page no 22  
Book Shelf



# Barrow Submarine Series: issue number 15 **HMS TALENT**



**ROYAL VISIT:** Princess Anne at the commissioning for *HMS Talent* on May 14 in 1990 and, inset, going down the slipway in 1988 as the last dynamic submarine launch at Barrow

**H***M*S *Talent* was commissioned in 1990 by the Princess Royal as the sixth of seven Trafalgar class hunter killer submarines built at Barrow.

The submarine has completed a successful Long Overhaul Period (re-fuelling), which as well as seeing the reactor core renewed, also saw the boat fitted out with a new command system and Sonar 2076, the most advanced in service.

Sonar 2076 has the power equivalent to approximately 400 personal computers and can precisely track the movement of small objects from hundreds of miles away.

*Talent* was also given the ability to fire the Tomahawk land attack cruise missile.

One of *Talent's* claims to fame is being the last submarine to be launched down a slipway.

The submarine is affiliated with Shrewsbury in Shropshire.

#### **STATS:**

Ordered: 10 September 1984  
Laid down: 13 May 1986  
Launched: 15 April 1988  
Sponsored by: The Princess Royal  
Commissioned: 12 May 1990  
Homeport: Devonport, Plymouth  
Class and type: Trafalgar class submarine



**SPECIAL DAY:** The Princess Royal inspects the crew of *HMS Talent* at the commissioning ceremony in May 1990

Displacement: Surfaced: 4,740 tons  
Dived: 5,208 tons  
Length: 280.1 ft (85.4 m)  
Beam: 32.1 ft (9.8 m)  
Draught: 31.2 ft (9.5 m)  
Propulsion: Rolls-Royce PWR1 nuclear reactor  
2 × GEC turbines  
1 × shaft pump jet 15,000 hp (11 MW)  
motor for emergency drive  
emergency retractable propellor  
2 × W H Allen turbo generators 2 MW  
2 × Paxman diesel alternators 2,800 hp (2.1 MW)  
Speed: Dived: 32 knots (59 km/h)  
Complement: 18 officers and 112 men

Sensors and processing systems:  
Ferranti/Gresham Dowty DCB/DCG  
Type 2072 hull-mounted flank array  
passive sonar

Plessey Type 2020 or Marconi/Plessey  
Type 2074 hull-mounted active and  
passive search and attack sonar

Ferranti Type 2046 towed array  
passive search sonar

Thomson Sintra Type 2019 PARIS or  
Thorn EMI 2082 passive intercept and  
ranging sonar

Marconi Type 2077 short range active  
classification sonar

Kelvin Hughes Type 1007 I band  
navigation radar

Pilkington Optronics CK34 search  
periscope

Pilkington Optronics CH84/CM010  
attack periscope

Type 2076 sonar scheduled from 2006

Electronic warfare and decoys: 2 ×  
SSE Mk8 launchers for Type 2066 and  
Type 2071 torpedo decoys

RESM Rascal UAP passive intercept  
CESM Outfit CXA

SAWCS decoys from 2002

Armament: 5 x 21 inch torpedo tubes  
A total of 30; Tomahawk land-attack  
cruise missiles.

Spearfish wire-guided heavyweight  
torpedoes.

Harpoon anti surface missiles.



## Barrie Downer Secretary



Well here we go with the 121st Issue of the Barrow Branch Newsletter.

June was a very busy month as I write we are only half way through and things are still happening. The Branch Meeting on 1st June went off quite well I thought.

We had visits from two of our longer distance Members 'Whiskey' Walker from Scotland and Ben Skeates one of our newer Members recently returned to UK after many years in Australia making it to his first Branch Meeting courtesy of his daughter who acted as his driver.

As it was a Ladies Social Evening they were all able to join in with the Quiz night run by Jeff Thomas and Jan Mead.

Hopefully you all managed to see the HMS AMBUSH Field Gun Crew in one of their Public Runs in front of the Barrow Town Hall on 26th May. They were successful in their efforts at the Field Gun Competition at HMS COLLINGWOOD on 5th June coming away with three trophies. This was the first time there was a full team of Submariners competing although individual Submariners will have been in other Teams in the past. For the purists a recent report in the Sunday Newspapers hinted that the 'real thing' which was run between Pompey, Guzz and the 'Airy Fairy's' at the Royal Tournament is about to make a re-appearance at a revived version of the Royal Tournament organised by a charitable concern and possibly starting late this year. We may see some of the AMBUSH Team in action in this new competition!

Next up, as they say is the Barrow 'Festival of The Sea' on 19th and 20th June in the Ship Yard with the main Events in the Devonshire Dock Hall end of the Yard with HMS RICH-

MOND in Devonshire Dock open to visitors as was a Tall Ship.

The Devonshire Dock Hall was open for visitors to walk through to see HMS AMBUSH, HMS ARTFUL and nearly all the sections of HMS AUDACIOUS in various stages of construction and the one fifth scale Model (in Perspex) of HMS VANGUARD. As I said last month this Model was used as a design and planning aid during the build of the VANGUARD Class boats and is helping out today in the design aspects of the Successor Class SSBNs.

The Barrow Branch of the Association and representatives of the Submarine Heritage Centre manned stalls in the Marquees outside the DDH along with various other displays for businesses and organisations.

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary Year of Nuclear Submarines the SHC Paintings Collection provided a number of the original paintings by Tom Murphy of the Nuclear Submarine Classes and one by Steve Kenny showing the inside of the DDH with ASTUTE and AMBUSH under construction. BAE kindly arranged for the pictures to be hung in one of the entrances to the DDH to ensure the maximum number of people got the chance to view the paintings.

As advised the 2010 Armed Forces Day took place on Monday 21st June with an Armed Forces Day Flag Raising Ceremony outside the Town Hall.

Thanks to all those who attended. On Sunday 27th June there was an Armed Forces Day Service in the Town Hall after which Veterans Badges were presented to qualifying personnel this was followed by a short reception with tea, sandwiches and sticky buns.

Terry Spurling and Mike Kirk have arrived back after a trip to Israel they went there for the ISA Conference and to meet up with some of the Israeli

Submariners who were in Barrow for the building of the 'GAL' Class Submarines. There is an article in this edition covering their visit to the 'GAL' which is currently on public display in Haifa and the DAKAR Memorial. DAKAR (formerly HMS TOTEM) was lost in the Mediterranean in the late 1960's and the Memorial consists of part of the fin of DAKAR recovered from 3,000 feet down.

The next Social Event for the Branch is the Annual Barbeque which will be at the Roose Cons on Saturday 31st July. Usual arrangements tot time, loud shirt competition, a raffle, the barbeque and Shindig playing for us. Get your names and cash to Colin Hutchinson as soon as possible or at the Branch Meeting on 6th July.

We are still progressing with our drive to make sure all Members are up to date with their Branch and National Subs. Those who still haven't got their Membership Cards for 2010 they are available from Mick Mailey still at the price of only £10 and your Membership Cards will be available at the next Branch Meeting on 1st July.

You can also send your Subs by post to me or Mick Mailey and we can then get your new Cards sent out. If you are still to pay up you will shortly receive a letter from the Branch inviting you to consider paying by Bankers Standing Order payable on 1st Jan each year which means you don't need to remember to pay - it will happen automatically.

We now have 190 Members - new Member George Murrin has recently been enrolled - welcome George!

The updated Branch List 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! Can I also make yet another plea for those of you who have provided BAE 'E Mail' addresses up to now to let me know your home 'E Mail' address (if you have one) as soon as possible.

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! See you all at the July Branch Meeting Tuesday 6th July usual time usual place.

Regards

Barrie

ISRAEL 2010.

ON 20TH May 2010 Mike Kirk and Terry Spurling flew from Manchester to Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. The prime reason for the trip was to attend the 47th Conference of the International Submariners Association.

Whilst I wished to attend the conference, the main reason for my travel was to re-visit the many Israeli Submariners and Base Staff who I had spent a great deal of time with during the build and sea trial phases of the Project 540 Submarines in the 70s

On arrival I was picked up by an old friend, Dan Tzur, who deposited me at the Conference

Hotel in Natanya. He then informed me that he and his wife Nilly would be picking Betty and I up the next morning, very early, for a visit to the Dead Sea and Massada.

For those not familiar with Massada, it is a cliff top fortress originally built by King Herod (yes that King Herod) but gained fame as the final strong hold of the Jewish Zealots in their fight against the Romans after the sacking of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. The Zealots held out for a number of years against the Roman Siege, until the Romans eventually built a ramp up to the entrance to Massada and broke into the Fortress. They found that all the Jewish personnel were dead. It turned out that they had all decided to die rather than face Roman slavery. Each man had killed his entire family before drawing lots to decide who of the remaining men should die last. They then killed each other until the last man committed suicide.

A place very well worth a visit.

The next day we were picked by Dan and Nilly for an all day visit to Caesarea. It turned out that one of our friends, Avram Peer the last Head of Commission on the P540 Programme, had trained as a relief tour guide for Caesarea. We had a most pleasant day and saw much more than would normally be the case for the average tourist. Much could be said about Caesarea, but this is not the place think Ben Hur and the Hippodrome Chariot Races and you'll get a flavour.

The ISA itself was due to start on Sunday 23rd May with a cocktail party and registration. As each of us registered we were given a "goodies" bag along with details of each of the next three days' activities.

Over 300 Members of the ISA registered 150 Russian Submarines turned up with SA representatives from USA, Argentine, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Ukraine, Turkey, Italy, Japan and of course Israel. Each of the next three days started with being picked up at

the Hotel at around 0800 with visits to a number of the obvious

sites in Israel Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Acro and the Holocaust Memorial were the main locations. Each of the tour coaches had one of our hosts onboard, together with an Israeli Submariner and a First Aider.

On the afternoon of the third day we visited the Submarine Museum and the Naval Dockyard,



It was the visit to the Museum that I had most anticipated. The main attraction at the site was the INS GAL which was the first of the three submarines we built in Barrow in the P540 Programme. It was strange to walk round that very small submarine and remember the build and Sea Trials we carried out in Scottish Waters. I had to remind myself how very strange much of that programme was a German Designed Submarine, built in Barrow for use by the Israeli Navy. I often had to travel to Germany and chair Meetings between VSEL, Israeli and German Personnel. I often wondered what certain parts of the middle of the last century had been about.

We had Lunch directly in the shadow of Gal.



My most poignant moment of the whole visit was to stand alongside the Memorial to fallen Israeli Submariners in the Museum. The memorial itself was part of the Bridge Fin of the lost submarine INS DAAKAR. Daakar was lost with all hands (69) in 1968 whilst in transit from UK to Israel. What made it more memorable for me was that Daakar had previously been HMS TOTEM which I took to Malta in 1956 and served on for 2 ½ years. Betty and the kids had spent many happy hours onboard that vessel when I was duty and moored in Msida Creek.

I have been asked to pen a few words re the loss and eventual location of Daakar she was located in 1999 at a depth of 3000M. That article will appear later.

The visit to the Naval Dockyard in Haifa was marked by one of the new Israeli Dolphin Submarines surfacing in front of all those assembled on the Jetty without any of us being aware that a submarine was dived in the basin. Very impressive

The final evening of the ISA 2010 was a Gala Dinner with some speeches and presentation of memorabilia to specified persons. It closed with the hand over of the ISA Motif to the 2011 ISA country Representatives the reps from Turkey as Istanbul is to be the 2011 venue.

I had never attended an ISA International Conference before but must state that I was impressed by the organisation and the comradeship displayed by those attending.

I will probably go to Istanbul next year. In view of the recent Gaza Blockade problems it will

be interesting to see if Israeli Submariners are able to attend.

It might be worth suggesting that one or two of our Branch and their WAGS might like to consider joining us?

Terry Spurling

### Royal Navy Family History Research (Part II) By Barrie Downer

For Continuous Service Ratings joining between 1923 and 1938:

As promised last month this is the second part of a guide for those who are getting interested in researching Family History where one of your or your wife, partner, girl friend relatives is known to have served in the Royal Navy. Last month we discussed this joining between 1853 and 1923 which was fairly straightforward as the National Archive has digitised the Service Records. Things now get a little more difficult as records have not been digitised but here are a few more pointers on how to find out when and in which ships or submarines your relative served.

As with last months pointers it definitely helps if you know a Christian Name(s) or Initials and, of course, the Surname, Date of Birth (DOB), Place of Birth (POB) of your relative, his Official Number and Year joined. It also helps to know whether he was an Officer or a Rating.

For several years the Official Numbers of Ratings followed the general rules for Seamen and Comms which had the J prefix followed by six numbers, for Stokers with the K Prefix and six numbers and Engine Room Artificers with the M Prefix followed by the numbers. However during this period there was a need to save money owing to the slump and this resulted in a change of pay rates with new entrants being paid less than those who joined earlier.

The Prefix changed by the addition of an X after the previ-

ous single letter. Thus J became JX, K became KX and M became MX. Seamen thus became known as 'JiXer's'. Official Number Prefixes began to be liked with the Depot (Portsmouth, Devonport or Chatham) of the individual Rating and then began to follow the more familiar format of P/JX \*\*\*\*\* , D/JX \*\*\*\*\* or C/JX \*\*\*\*\*.

Those who volunteered as Submariners in this period will have served in a number of different Depot Ships. Some familiar names continue during this period HMS AMBROSE went to the Far East to be the Depot Ship for the China Flotilla (4th Submarine Flotilla) a Hong Kong to be replaced firstly by TITANIA and later by MEDWAY. Initially the Flotilla was made up of the L Class Submarines but these were later replaced by Submarines of the 'Oberon', 'Parthian' and 'Rainbow' classes. HMS PLATYPUS became HMAS PLATYPUS in 1919 and went off to Australia with the 'J' Class Submarines in 1919 taking out some two hundred and fifty RN Submariners on loan for two or three years. Many of these, not surprisingly, stayed in Australia and some of these also manned the Australian 'O' Class Submarines between 1926 and 1932. Other Depot Ships in the years 1923 to 1938 included LUCIA, MAIDSTONE, FORTH, ALECTO, CONQUEST, ROSS, PIGMY, ADAMANT as well as HMS DOLPHIN. Other Tenders included MARAZION and BRUCE.

If you think your relative was 'Loaned to' or transferred to the Royal Australian Navy you may be in luck. The National Archives of Australia have digitised most of the records of their earlier Submariners. You need to go 'on line' and go to <http://www.naa.gov.au>. When the 'Home Page' comes up select 'Record Search' and then 'Search Now' as a guest. When the 'General Search' page comes up enter the details you have like 'Name', a 'Range of Dates' and enter A6770 in the 'Reference Number' Box.



If you are in luck a Record or a number of Records will turn up. One of these may be the one you are looking for.

All Ratings 'Loaned to' or joining the RAN were given new Official Numbers. If you find the right man you can open and read his record card and also download it and save it to your Computer at no charge! Not like the £3.50 per record charged by the UK National Archives! However the records of seamen who entered the Royal Navy after 1923 are not held by The National Archives. For Ratings who entered the service between 1928 and 1938 you will need to contact:

The Directorate of Personnel Support (Navy), Navy Search, TNT Archive Services, Tetron Point, William Nadin Way, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE11 0BB

Tel: 01283 227913

Fax: 01283 227942

email:

[navysearchpgrc@tnt.co.uk](mailto:navysearchpgrc@tnt.co.uk)

For Ratings joining the service after 1938 your best contact is the Data Protection Cell (Navy), Victory View, Building 1/152, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth, PO1 3PX. However as many joining after 1938 and serving during WWII may still be alive you will probably be asked to demonstrate that you are either Next of Kin or have permission of the Rating you are investigating.

Many Ratings joining during WWII were Hostilities only Ratings or Short Service Ratings. Here you will find another variation of the Prefixes with Seamen being given numbers such as P/SSX \*\*\*\*\* and Stokers being given C/SKX \*\*\*\*\* and Tiffies being given D/SMX. Some numbers later reverted to the older Prefixes with P/J for Seaman and Comms, P/K for Stokers and P/M for Tiffies. In the early 1960s there was another change with the Chatham Depot dropping out of the picture and with Portsmouth and Devonport Prefixes starting from something like P/050000 or D 051000. Later still the 'P'

Prefix was dropped with Centralised Drafting from HMS CENTURION leaving just the 'D' Prefix and, when computers started to be used by Drafty the introduction of a random letter as a Suffix so all Official (or Computer) Numbers are in the format D\*\*\*\*\*X. Confused you will be!

Depot Ships during WWII included BONAVENTURE, LUCIA, MAIDSTONE, TITANIA, MEDWAY, ELFIN, ADAMANT and others'. Depot Ships were phased out in the 1950's and 1960's and reliance was placed on Shore Bases

One other useful source of data on Submariners is the Royal Navy Submarine Museum. From about 1912 Submariners records started to be kept on cards at HMS DOLPHIN and, should you relative have one of these cards it will include his full name, Official Number, Depot, date of volunteering for Submarines, date of Qualifying and sometimes the percentage of his Pass. It will also include his Submarine Depot Ships and Submarines and whether he was Spare Crew these details are usually annotated with the dates served.

The man who can help is the Archivist, George Malcolmson, who is on [archives@rnsubmus.co.uk](mailto:archives@rnsubmus.co.uk) but you need to give him as much information as possible and also be very patient as there is not a large staff at the Museum and it is usually George who finds out the information as well. If he finds out information for you a donation to the Museum funds is always very welcome. Otherwise you can always try putting a request on the Barrow Branch Website or on the National Association Website. Or you can try a question on Google or one of the other Search Engines - however data found this way should always be cross checked with other sources as sites like Wikipedia can be very general and sometimes unreliable in the information found.

Good luck in your researches!

In the August Newsletter I will

discuss how to find out about Submariner relatives who served as joined as Officers or were promoted from the Lower Deck, how to find out about Relatives who were 'Killed in Action' in WWI or WWII and how to find out about Submariner relatives who died from accidents or illness during the years of peace.

## Israeli Boats

Israel is stationing one of its three Dolphin class submarines in the Red Sea, and will keep that boat operating off the Iranian coast some of the time. This sub can be armed with cruise missiles (equipped with nuclear warheads).

In the next two years, Israel will receive two more German built Dolphin class submarines, giving it a total of five (the others were received 9-10 years ago). The older boats have since been upgraded to include larger fuel capacity, converting more torpedo tubes to the larger 650mm size, and installing new electronics. The fuel and torpedo tube mods appear to have something to do with stationing the subs off the coast of Iran. Larger torpedo tubes allow the subs to carry longer range missiles. The larger fuel capacity makes it easier to move Dolphins from the Mediterranean to the Indian ocean. Although Israel has a naval base on the Red Sea, Egypt had, until recently, had not allowed Israeli subs to use the Suez canal. So the Dolphins were modified to go around Africa, if they had to. But now the Egyptians, who are also feuding with Iran, regularly allow Israeli subs to use the canal.

Larger fuel capacity also allows the subs to spend more time on station off the Iranian coast. Currently the Dolphins can stay at sea for about 40 days (moving at about 14 kilometers an hour, on the surface, for up to 8,000 kilometers). Larger fuel capacity extends range to over 10,000 kilometers, and endurance to about 50 days.



The two new Dolphins cost about \$650 million each, with Germany picking up a third of the cost, as part of their reparations for World War II atrocities against Jews. The Dolphins have a fuel cell based propulsion system which enable them to stay under waters for over a week at a time. The Dolphins are also very quiet, and very difficult for the Iranians to hunt down and destroy. The first three Dolphins didn't have the AIP (Air Independent Propulsion) system.

Israel equipped it's new Dolphin class submarines with nuclear cruise missiles in 2002. Israel also fitted their 135 kilometer range Harpoon missiles with nuclear warheads. These missiles are fired from the sub's torpedo tubes. The 1,625 ton Dolphins can carry 16 torpedoes or missiles and have ten forward torpedo tubes (four of them the larger 650mm -26 inch- size). The Dolphins are considered the most modern non-nuclear subs in the world. The first three cost \$320 million each. All have a crew of 35 and can dive to a depth of more than 600 feet. The Dolphin design is based on the German 209 class subs, but has been so heavily modified that it is considered a different class.

The Israelis have developed a cruise missile, which has a range of 1,500 kilometers and carries a 200 kiloton nuclear warhead. The objective of deploying nukes on subs is to further enhance deterrence to any nation launching a nuclear strike against Israel. If one of the Dolphins are always at sea, even a first strike against Israel would not prevent a nuclear strike by submarine launched nukes.



**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**

**Gosport Branch**

23rd May 2010

J M (John) Herron  
Chief Petty Office (OPS)

P/J 968546

Aged 70

Submarine Service 1959 - 1982  
Artemis, Finwhale, Amphion  
Revenge

**Lincoln Branch**

24th May 2010

R W (Sandy) Saunders

LEM

P/SMX 924214

Aged 75

Submarine Service 1957 - 1960  
Seraph, Turpin & Truncheon

**Poole and District Branch**

25th May 2010

R A (Ray) Wellstead

LTO

P/JX 175866

Aged 86

Submarine service 1943 - 1946  
Tribune and Amphion

**Sussex Branch**

May 2010

B E (Brian) Chapman

Leading Seaman UC1

P059629

Aged 66

Submarine Service 1962-1970  
Alliance and Dreadnought

**West of Scotland Branch**

May 2010

Ron Graham

Charge Chief Electrician

P/MX 903904

Aged 77

Submarine Service from 1955  
Alaric, Tabard, Thermopylae  
Excalibur, Amphion  
Resolution

**Beds and Herts Branch**

June 2010

Gordon Jesson

Able Seaman (ST)

P/JX 673383

Aged 83

Submarine Service 1944-1947  
Clyde, Vivid and Tantivy

**Blyth & Wansbeck  
and Sunderland Branches**  
March 2010

W J (Bill) Dobson MiD  
Chief Engine room Artificer  
P/MX 47980

Aged 96

Submarine Service 1940-1945  
Tigris, Tribune, Unbending  
Unrivalled

**Gosport Branch**

June 2010

J (Jack) Woodhams

Able Seaman (ST)

P/JX 430739

Aged 85

Submarine Service 1944-1945  
Virulent, Urtica, Tireless  
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.*







## Reunions

### HMS Saracen Reunion 14 August

HMS Saracen, 'S class submarine' 1942/3: A Cameo (come and meet each other) of Saracen surviving crew, crew families and friends of Saracen is planned for August 14 (the 67th anniversary of her sinking) at the Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Gosport. Contact Dannie Nicholas.

E-mail [nicholdan@aol.com](mailto:nicholdan@aol.com)

### Polaris Submarine HMS Repulse Reunion 17 September

This event will take place in The King Charles Hotel Gillingham from September 17 to 19. Information available at the website:-

<http://www.hms-repulse.co.uk>  
or contact Frank Scutt.  
E-mail: [fescutt@hotmail.com](mailto:fescutt@hotmail.com)

### A NEW SUPERMARKET

A new supermarket has opened near us. It has an automatic water mister to keep the vegetables fresh. Just before it goes on, you hear the distant sound of thunder and the smell of fresh rain. When you pass the milk aisle, you hear cows mooing and you experience the scent of fresh cut hay. In the meat department there is the aroma of charcoal grilled steaks and sausages. When you approach the egg counter, you hear hens cluck and cackle, and the air is filled with the pleasing aroma of bacon and eggs frying. The bread department features the tantalizing smell of freshly-baked bread. However I don't buy toilet paper there anymore.

### FAMOUS QUOTES

Sometimes, when I look at my children, I say to myself, 'Lillian, you should have remained a virgin.'

Lillian Carter (mother of Jimmy Carter)

Last week, I stated this woman was the ugliest woman I had ever seen. I have since been visited by her sister, and now wish to withdraw that statement.

Mark Twain

July 2010

## Members Birthdays

|               |       |
|---------------|-------|
| M. Kirk       | 06/07 |
| S. Leach      | 07/07 |
| G. Anderson   | 08/07 |
| B. Downie     | 13/07 |
| J. Davies     | 20/07 |
| N. Weaver     | 20/07 |
| C. Hutchinson | 22/07 |
| C. James      | 23/07 |
| D. O'Connell  | 23/07 |
| R. Faragher   | 24/07 |
| T. O'Keefe    | 24/07 |
| J. Costello   | 24/07 |
| A. Jones      | 29/07 |
| D. Wilson     | 29/07 |

### 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](mailto: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 July for the August 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 2010

### July

Tuesday 6th Monthly meeting  
2000 RBL

Tuesday 20th Branch  
Committee Meeting 1930 RBL

Branch BBQ 31st July 2010 at  
the Roose Conservative Club  
Barrow

### August

Tuesday 3rd Monthly meeting  
2000 RBL

Tuesday 17th Branch  
Committee Meeting 1930 RBL



## Chaplains Dit

I sat in my garden this morning and witnessed the ever rolling pattern of nature. A blackbird was beside my chair feeding one of its fledgling offspring. The blackbird walked with the youngster offspring in tow stopping every so often to feed the young one who did precious little to help itself. And I reflected that nothing ever changes or does it?



For the first time ever China admitted openly to North Korea's invasion of South Korea as being the cause of the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950. China's state-run media Xinhua News Agency's international affairs publication carried a special report on the 60th anniversary of the Korean War on Thursday saying its closest ally, North Korea crossed the 38th parallel and launched an attack on the South on June 25th, 1950

For sixty years the Chinese have lived a lie but now admits, because it is deemed politically expedient that the fault is pointed towards the North Koreans who they sided with. During this time in an almost forgotten was British forces suffered 1078 Killed 2674 Wounded 1060 Missing or POW

The comment I am making is not a political statement, but more of a general reflective statement on behalf Veterans the world over and specifically the British Armed Services Veterans. All veterans have differing experiences of the dangerous reality of conflict. Yet

we remain faithful servants to the Political Class whose perceived modus operandi is often within in the murky power world as stated by the 19th Century British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli (1804–1881): of lies, damned lies, and statistics. Without the parent the fledgling would be overwhelmed. Without the courage of our armed forces we would not enjoy the hard won peace we take for granted today. That is why some Barrow veterans were involved in the flag raising ceremony at Barrow town hall on Monday, and also will be present at the Veterans Badge Presentation Ceremony, along with a short service of remembrance on Sunday.

Regards Jonsey  
Lay Chaplain

PS – The blackbird image was lifted from the tinternet!!!

## International Submarine News

The Netherlands has agreed to a Nato request to deploy a submarine off the coast of Somalia to combat piracy.

The Dutch ministry of defence said the submarine will join the Nato-led international flotilla off East Africa.



It will be used for reconnaissance in the vast area from the Gulf of Aden deep into the Indian Ocean where Somali Pirates have been hijacking commercial vessels for ransom.

The Gulf of Aden is one of the busiest shipping routes in the world. "The Netherlands will deploy a submarine from the end of September to the end of November," the Dutch ministry of defence said.

## Barrow Armed Forces Veterans

The team are looking for volunteers, who willing to be part of any future event organised on behalf of the Barrow Veterans. The next meeting will take place in September 7th 1915hrs prior to our own monthly SA meeting and KOBRA who all meet in the Holker Street British Legion on the same night. Please come along brimming with idea's.

## SAILORS INJURED AS SWELL ROCKS SUBMARINE

Article dated 23rd May 2010

Three Navy sailors have been treated for minor injuries after their submarine rolled on its side off the coast of Western Australia. The crew of HMAS Collins were carrying out some routine tests on Sunday morning when the submarine was rocked heavily by a sudden swell. Three Navy sailors have been treated for minor injuries after their submarine rolled on its side off the coast of Western Australia.

The crew of HMAS Collins were carrying out some routine tests on Sunday morning when the submarine was rocked heavily by a sudden swell. Three of the boat's crew were injured, suffering cuts and bruising. They were taken to HMAS Stirling Base south of Freemantle and have been treated at a medical defence centre. A Navy spokeswoman says the vessel itself has not been damaged and will return to sea soon. It is believed bad weather conditions caused the submarine to roll. Three of the boat's crew were injured, suffering cuts and bruising. They were taken to HMAS Stirling Base south of Freemantle and have been treated at a medical defence centre. A Navy spokeswoman says the vessel itself has not been damaged and will return to sea soon. It is believed badweather conditions caused the submarine to roll.





# Solve the monthly submarine quiz

We hope you enjoyed last month's wordsquare.

If any of it proved tricky, the solution is at the foot of the page. This month we have clues based on Barrow subs which served in the Second World War.

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](mailto:bill.myers@nwemail.co.uk)

## Find the Barrow Second World War subs

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. UNDINE  | 7. TETRACH   |
| 2. UNITY   | 8. UTMOST    |
| 3. URSULA  | 9. UPRIGHT   |
| 4. TRIUMPH | 10. USK      |
| 5. THISTLE | 11. UPHOLDER |
| 6. TRUANT  | 12. UNBEATEN |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | H | G | I | R | P | U | L | L | U | H | B |
| N | E | T | E | N | E | T | A | E | B | N | U |
| A | C | T | H | I | S | T | L | E | W | Y | P |
| U | O | O | R | I | S | A | O | O | E | S | H |
| R | D | P | E | A | L | U | S | R | U | O | O |
| T | A | S | I | G | C | R | E | W | N | R | L |
| T | S | O | I | T | W | H | R | H | I | S | D |
| O | A | O | R | P | A | I | A | I | T | U | E |
| N | R | O | M | A | N | E | K | T | Y | G | R |
| E | P | A | P | T | S | S | S | B | E | R | Y |
| R | C | O | P | E | U | N | D | I | N | E | L |
| S | O | U | H | P | M | U | I | R | T | N | P |

Last month's wordsquare solution (below)

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | S | A | E | T | R | Y | L | L | U | H | B |
| O | A | T | E | E | S | C | E | P | T | T | A |
| L | C | R | V | Y | A | C | O | U | W | Y | S |
| K | O | O | A | I | S | A | O | O | E | S | Q |
| E | D | P | E | M | L | M | D | W | K | O | H |
| S | A | S | I | G | S | R | E | W | E | R | T |
| T | C | O | I | T | W | G | R | H | A | S | U |
| O | A | G | R | P | A | I | A | I | H | U | O |
| N | R | O | M | A | N | E | V | T | A | G | M |
| E | P | A | P | E | S | I | S | B | E | R | Y |
| R | C | O | P | E | E | H | A | Y | E | N | L |
| S | O | U | T | H | A | M | P | T | O | N | P |

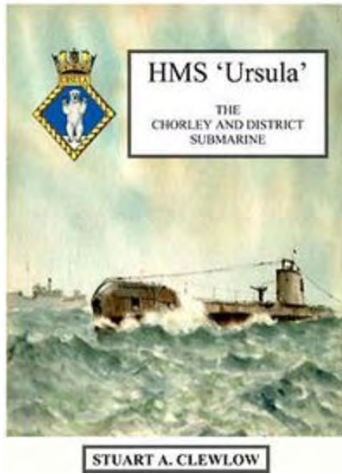


TOUGH TIMES: Prisoners from the Barrow-built *HMS Undine* imprisoned by Germany after their sub was depth-charged and lost



## HMS 'URSULA'

### The Chorley and District Submarine



A comprehensive account of the service history and crew of HMS 'URSULA'; Famous in its day, this World War Two 'baby' Submarine, was the sole survivor of the original group of pre-war built 'U'-Class vessels.

Further more, 'URSULA' was an 'adopted' vessel of one of the hundreds of Warship Week National Savings campaigns. She was sponsored by the people of Chorley and District in Lancashire and a contingent of the crew paid their respects there in 1943.

Although many know about the stories of 'UPHOLDER', 'THRASHER' and the actions of the famous 10th Submarine Flotilla, few know the history behind this Submarine, which has just as eventful a story to tell. Drawing on a wide range of Royal Navy, social and historical records, combining fact with witness accounts, the overall account is illustrated with photographs and supported with quotes from those who were part of the action.

Every aspect of this little-acknowledged boat from Royal Navy history is covered for the first time in one publication. From its original conception as a training vessel, to firing the first British Submarine torpedoes of the war, to taking the first German Prisoners by British Submarine in the war, surviving a near fatal collision and later

transferring into the control of the Soviet Navy- this is the story of 'URSULA.'

"I am sure that your 'URSULA' project will not be superfluous..."

"I do complement you on your excellent research into the 'URSULA' saga!...It brings back happy memories to see pictures of ones colleagues again...All I can say is that they were a splendid, loyal, efficient crew of dedicated men. Best of luck. Yours, Barklie Lakin ('URSULA' Lieutenant 1938-39 & 'URSULA' Captain 1942-43)"

"Readers of this very true realistic story about Ursula will be enthralled at the exploits, which included torpedo attacks, gunnery attacks, boarding parties, depth charging, special forces operations, and even impersonating a U-boat; serving in Home Waters, Norwegian, Mediterranean, Arctic and Baltic."

Supporting the story are the actual views, comments and the parts they played in these exploits by ex-members of the wartime crew.

This book should be read by anyone interested in World War II and the Civilian support for the services and also Submarine warfare as seen by those who took part."

Mr John Frederick Green ('URSULA' Telegraphist 1942-43)

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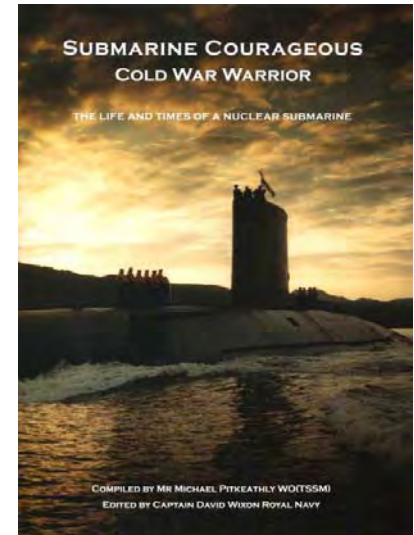


## Books Previously

### Reviewed

## SUBMARINE COURAGEOUS COLD WAR WARRIOR

By Michael Pitkeathley and  
David Wixon  
(London Design Factory Ltd -  
£30)



ISBN 978-0-9563472-0-6

## Periscope View

by  
George Simpson

Available in most book shops and online. Available in paper or hard back. It tells the story of Malta and the 10th Submarine Flotilla under the Command of George "Shrimp" Simpson between 1941- 43.

