



**BARROW SA  
BRANCH  
OFFICIALS**

**November 2011** Submariners Association

**Issue 137**

# newsletter

Barrow-in-Furness Branch

Twinned with SAOC (East)

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HMS Olympus pictured inset at Launch Barrow-in-Furness and at Port Maitland's Marine Recycling Corp Canada



## CHAIRMAN'S November Word

This is the start of a busy period. On Sunday 5th Nov there is the Embankment Parade in London one of the most important events in the National calendar. Although I wouldn't expect many to travel down David Smith and his wife Sue always attend and Dave lays the branch wreath for us at the Submarine Memorial. Closer to home we start with the Ladies Night on Friday 11th Nov at the Abbey House. This is the first time it hasn't been held at the Lisdoonie for a long time certainly in my time in Barrow and it looks as though it is a popular choice as we have just over 100 people attending, the most for many a year so it all points to it being a good night. This is followed on the Sunday by the Remembrance Parade. If you want to joins us be at the Town Hall by 1015 ready to march to the Cenotaph in the park

If marching is not for you then meet us at the park and help us remember those who have lost their lives not just in the two world wars but the various conflicts that we have been involved in since and that are still raging in the Middle East and Afghanistan. Failing that be at the RBL on completion of the Remembrance Parade where we can have a convivial time with our friends from the other services and at which we will again play our unique submarine remembrance CD.

The Co-operative Funeral Care in Roose Road are once again kindly sponsoring two Limousines on Remembrance Sunday. Any Member or Widow who wishes to take advantage of this kind offer would be collected from their home, taken to the Cenotaph in the park and on completion returned to either the RBL or to their home as they wish. Please contact Dave Barlow on 01229 831196 or 07784 923321 as soon as possible as seats will be

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allocated on a first come basis.

I read in the local paper a week or so ago that the Barrow Council have been in discussions with Premier Inns with the objective for them to build a Premier Inn and a Brewers Fayre pub adjacent to the Dock Museum. Not being a cynic, that of course would have nothing to do with the decision not to allow Onyx to be berthed in the empty dock next to the Dock Museum would it? Does seem an awful coincidence though.

Barrie Downer our branch secretary has advised us that he will be retiring this coming Christmas and that he and his family will be moving back to Scotland. This means of course that he will be stepping down as our Branch Secretary after about 7 years or so.

We therefore need to elect a new secretary. With a branch of about 170 or so members there must be someone who would like to be considered. Barrie will be a hard act to follow but we cannot function without a secretary. If you have what it takes then contact Barrie or me so that you can get a better idea of what is involved. Apart for the obvious secretarial skills you need to be dedicated with a capital D.

Fortunately in the case of Colin Hutchinson he has agreed to carry on as our Social Secretary as NOT ONE person put their hand up to help out. I find it very strange that there appears to be so much apathy to serve on committees not just in our branch but across the Association generally. I don't know the answer or even pretend to but what it does do is put even more pressure and work on those who are prepared to stand up and be counted.

My daughter has her own Beauty Treatment business called "Beauty Secrets" and in return for sponsoring some of the Newsletter distribution costs she has an advert on [Page 11](#). Ladies, if you want to look your best for Ladies Night or for other functions on the run in to Christmas contact Andrea and

book a treatment. Gents, why don't you purchase a voucher, it would make a good stocking filler for any of your female friends or relations.

That's all for now, see you Tuesday.

Dave Barlow

## Dundee Submarine Flotilla Memorial Visit

Two Members of the Branch attended the memorial ceremony in Dundee this year. Bob Faragher, and Mike Dack.

The visit started with a train journey to Dundee via Lancaster and Edinburgh. This was not all plain sailing as we got seats next to a bunch of young guy's on their way to Edinburgh on a 'Stag' do. As one can imagine it was a somewhat noisy affair due to the amount of alcohol they had consumed. They did however offer to share their bottle of 'Jim Beam' with us, but we declined as we had no wish to be thrown off the train with our new friends! The journey from Edinburgh to Dundee was almost as grim, as a couple of native nutters parked themselves near us.

However, we duly arrived in Dundee, and our hotel. The hotel was excellent in just about every way. We settled into our room and found a nearby 'help yourself' Indian restaurant. Like all good submariners, we then repaired to the bar.

On Saturday, we got ready to attend the ceremony. It was a good turnout, and all the nations were represented. Particularly the Norwegians, their Submarine was visiting Scotland at a port just down the coast. There were quite a number of civilians in attendance as well. Fortunately the weather was kind, and the ceremony was conducted very well, very poignant indeed. Following the ceremony, we were invited to attend a civic reception in the council chambers. There were a number of speakers, followed by free drinks. It must be

mentioned that Mick Dack went out on to the balcony to wave to the crowds which consisted of some guy and a dog!

We returned to the hotel to rest and make ready for the evenings recreation. Having spruced ourselves up we wandered up town to find a decent Chinese nose bag joint. In our wanderings we were kidnapped by a former wrecker and his lady. This chap had not been to the ceremony and did not seem to know much about it. However we went with them as they knew the best Chinese in the world! In actual fact, it was excellent. After dining we had a look round some pubs but they were a bit wild for us so we returned to the Hotel for bunkers. We were surprised and delighted to discover we were quite popular amongst some of the other guests, but we won't expand on that. Things took a turn for the worst when Nobby found us. We had a great night though.

Sunday after breakfast we went back to the memorial so we could have a good look at it. It really is spectacular and a great tribute to the individuals who went to sea in those boats, many never to return. We also visited HMS Unicorn and spent some time looking over her, and then we went to the Discovery. However we thought £8 to go aboard was a bit much, so we had a look round the trinket shop that was free. We had another Chinese, and repeated the activities of the night before.

Sunday, all went well until our train left Ulverston, when we almost ran into a tree across the lines. We eventually arrived back in Barrow on a coach.

The whole weekend was excellent. It would have been better had we had more attending but everyone we spoke to agreed that Dundee should really make more of the ceremony in terms of publicity, never the less It was very good and we were both pleased that we attended and the Barrow Branch standard was there.

Bob and Mick  
(Pics on back page)

# Barrow Submarine Series: issue number 36

## HMS A8



**COMMUNITY MOURNS:** Huge numbers of people turned out to pay their respects to the crew of the Barrow-built HMS A8

**L**IFE for pioneering submariners in the Edwardian era seems to have been particularly risky with A-class boats having a fairly poor reputation for safety.

The Barrow-built A8 sank with the loss of 15 crew members as a result of an accident on the surface in Plymouth Sound on June 8 in 1905.

At this point A8 had only been completed for a month.

A sudden dip in the bow caused the submarine to be swamped through the hatch in the conning tower.

The boat had left Plymouth for exercises off Looe with her sister boat the A7.

An initial dive saw the A8 surfacing in trouble and with an obvious list.

A8 was salvaged four days after the accident and a loose rivet was found in the bow plating.

The 1905 accident struck a chord with the local population and a parade was held to the Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehouse Cemetery in Ford Park on Thursday June 15.

The whole population of the three towns turned out packing the streets along the route from Devonport Naval Base.

The flag-draped coffins were on gun carriages pulled by sailors, anchors made of flowers, sailors

marched with rifles, a military band played.

At the graveside, there was a military funeral with full honours paid respect to those who locals called "Heroes all of Them."

The submarine was repaired and used for training during the First World War.

As the First World War progressed the boat was seen as increasingly out-dated and served little useful purpose.

The boat had two alternating training crews backed up by a depot ship.

A8 was finally scrapped in October 1920 by the firm of Phillips of Dartmouth, Devon.

### STATS:

- Laid down: September 1 in 1905
- Completed: May 8 in 1905
- Launched: January 1 in 1905
- Displacement: Surface 190 tons, Submerged 207 tons
- Speed: 11.5knots on the surface and 6knots submerged
- Length: 105ft 3in
- Range: 325 nautical miles on the surface and 20 nautical miles submerged
- Armaments: Two x 18 inch torpedo tube with two reloads
- Compliment: Two officers and nine men.

In Memory

OF THE

**FIFTEEN NOBLE  
BRITISH SAILORS,**

Who lost their lives by the

Accidental Sinking of the

**A8 SUBMARINE BOAT,**

Near the Plymouth Breakwater,

ON

**Thursday, June 8th, 1905.**

**MAJOR EVENT:** A funeral invitation card for the crew of the ill-fated submarine A8



## Barrie Downer Secretary

So what's been going on in October? It seems to have been a bit busy!

Well there was the Branch Meeting on 4th October with the Quiz Night!. There was a good turn out for the evening with thirty six members putting in an appearance with a good number bringing along their ladies for the quiz. Thanks to all who came along and made it a good evening. Colin hosted the quiz which was a bit tougher than the one I had on standby in case Colin couldn't get one ready on time – having only just returned from holiday. The raffle was also well supported so thanks very much to all those who contributed.

An event of note during the month was the Keel Laying Ceremony on 13th October in the Devonshire Dock Hall for the fifth Astute Class Submarine HMS ANSON. Originally it had been expected that the Submarine was to be called HMS AGEMEMNON a bit of a mouthful not sure why the name was changed but we are now advised that the sixth Submarine will be AGEMEMNON. The Keel Laying date had been deferred from September owing to a clash with the murder trial of the sailor from ASTUTE the then Secretary of State for Defence needing to stay in London for the verdict. As it was several of the originally invited guests couldn't make it to the re-arranged date and several places were then available one of which was allocated to me. Having never been to a Keel Laying before as a formal Guest it turned out to be a very interesting day! Events also resulted in the Secretary of State for Defence also not being able to make it for reasons you may have read about in the news. Instead the Ceremony was performed by Gerald Howarth, MP the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence.

As well as the Keel Laying the

Minister also announced that the go ahead had been given to 'Cut Steel' for the sixth Astute Boat and to order the 'Long Lead' items for the seventh and last of the Class.

The 13th of October also saw the funeral of former Barrow Branch Member Mike Bycroft who many of you will remember. Thank you to all who made it along to the Thorncliffe Crematorium to give Mike a good 'Submariners send off' on his last patrol. Ginge Cundall did the honours and paraded the Branch Standard and Alan Jones conducted the service. I know that the large Branch attendance was well appreciated by the family.

Two Branch Members made it to the Annual Dundee Memorial Service on the weekend of 14th to 16th October Bob Faragher did the honours with the Branch Standard and he and Mick Dack (who laid a Wreath) represented the Branch at what has developed into a well supported event. Both of them made some new friends and also caught up with some they made previously. A good number of Members and their ladies made it along to the Annual Sea Cadets Trafalgar Night Ball at the Lisdoonie on Friday 21st October – this year actually on the Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. I was requested to propose the toast to the 'Immortal Memory' which is the second time I have had that honour! I think the numbers attending overall were a bit down this year but the event raised nearly £800 for the Sea Cadet funds.

The Branch was requested to help out the Royal British Legion with the distribution of the Poppy Collection Boxes around Barrow and this has been co-ordinated by John Hart. John has also co-ordinated Branch Member participation into the BAE sponsored Poppy Events in Barrow Schools. A big thank you to John Hart and all those Branch Members who assisted.

So what comes next? The November Branch Meeting will be on Tuesday 1st

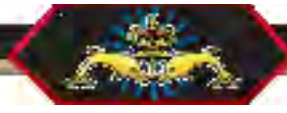
November usual time usual place Raffle and 'Up Spirits' are on the Agenda as normal so come along and catch up with all your 'oppos'.

November also sees the Submariners Embankment Memorial Parade in London on Sunday 6th November. If you happen to be in London on that date you are more than welcome to attend and could always volunteer to lay the Branch Wreath. Branch Chairman Dave Barlow will be attending in his role as National Chairman of the Submariners Association. This will be his last formal duty at this event as he stands down a National Chairman next year.

Friday 11th November will see the Branch Annual Ladies Night Dinner Dance this year on Remembrance Day at the Abbey House Hotel our Guests this year will be John Freel, OBE and his wife. I understand from Colin that we have more Branch Members and Guests attending this time than for some of our other recent events.

The Remembrance Day Parade this year is on Sunday 13th November. For your Diaries the timings are: 'Muster' in Town Hall Square at 1010. March Off' at 1035. Arrive Cenotaph 1055.

On completion of the Cenotaph Ceremonies the Parade will 'March Back' to the Royal British Legion for our Submariners Remembrance and 'Up Spirits'. John Smith has also arranged for 'Pie & Peas' to be available at £1.70 per head and the Committee has arranged for up to 50 'Pie & Peas' tickets to be available for Branch Members participating. Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will read of the kind offer by the Coop Funeral Director's offer transport to and from the Cenotaph for Branch Members unable to march in the Parade. Looking a bit further forward the annual West of Scotland Branch 'K13 Weekend' will be coming up in January 2012. Full details should be available at the November Branch Meeting and I will be circulating a list to gauge support for this event.



Members will recall that we have been trying to find out what happened to the 'Valiant Association Memorial Bench' which used to be in Victoria Park but which has gone missing. We have recently received some information which appears to confirm that the similar Memorial Bench which has appeared on Walney Island just down from the Round House is actually the 'Valiant Bench' but with a new Tally Plate.

This requires a bit more research to find out what has happened here and the Committee will be discussing how to proceed with this information at our next Committee Meeting

At the last Branch Meeting Mick Mailey reported that Branch membership was 174 Members. This is a different total to the one I had and there has been a lot of checking going on between the Branch Committee and National Records to resolve this issue. It looks like the total should be higher than Mick has reported and Dave Barlow who is now the Acting National Membership Secretary is reviewing the records of all Members who have joined or left the Association since Tex Golding stood down and his successor as Membership Secretary relinquished the post. I hope we will have a corrected list of Members before we are due to pay National Subscriptions in the New Year.

If you haven't got your 2011 Membership Card Mick Mailey still has them your £10.00 Subs for 2011 are still outstanding! And your revised Subs of £12.50 for 2012 become due on 1st January 2012. So if you are still outstanding for 2011 at the November Branch Meeting bring your Cheque Books or Cash and Mick will be glad to get you paid up for this year and for another exciting year in 2012 and give you your Membership Card! Have you filled in and sent off your completed 2012 Standing Order Forms which takes away the worry about for-

getting to pay your Branch & National Subscriptions?

Don't forget to think about anything you want to be discussed at the 2012 National Council Conference in Bristol? Let the Committee know as soon as possible as we only have until the end of December to work up any items for submission to the National Secretary - and to find another Branch to act as Secunder! Also if you have any items for the Branch Annual General Meeting in April 2012 and let the Committee know as soon as possible.

We need a new Branch Secretary next year as I will be standing down after completing the final year of Ron Hiseman's last term of office followed by two full three year Terms of Office. We also need a new Vice Chairman as this post has been vacant for the last year. Have a think about it and decide whether you want to take on a challenge. You can always put yourself forward for a Committee post or to help out on the Welfare or Social Teams volunteers (and help) are always welcome.

Well I think that's about enough from me! 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 or are going into hospital 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 or arrange visits!

Don't forget the November Branch Meeting on Tuesday 1st November RBL Concert Room at 2000.

See you there don't be late!

Barrie.

## OLYMPUS FIRE



A fire inside the Olympus submarine at Port Maitland's Marine Recycling Corp forced about 10 workers to evacuate the vessel once used by the Canadian Department of National Defence on Wednesday afternoon 12th Oct

Ontario Provincial Police and Haldimand Firefighters from Dunnville, Byng, Moulton and Jarvis were called to the smoky scene at around 12:30 p.m. after a worker inside was cutting material with a grinder when a stray spark ignited pieces of wood covered in a cloth-like fabric nearby. "The interior of the sub is teak wood and cork, so it's fairly flammable," said OPP constable Mark Foster. "The company had been taking all the precautions to avoid this kind of thing, but sometimes things like this happen." Foster said the workers inside tried to put out the flames with fire extinguishers, but when that didn't work, decided to vacate the sub and called 911. At one point, firefighters from six different Haldimand fire stations spent parts of the afternoon fighting the blaze, using 12 fire trucks.

It wasn't until 24 hours later when Haldimand Fire Chief Rob Grimwood declared the fire completely extinguished. No injuries were reported and the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Labour were called in to assess the situation. "Safety for our workers is the first thing," said Wayne Elliot, director of business development for Marine Recycling Corp. "From there, they made sure there would be no more unnecessary damage to the environment outside."



Elliot said the slipway was boomed off to prevent any potentially harmful chemicals or substances from entering the Grand River, even though most of the hazards had been removed from the sub prior.

"The Ministry of Environment said they were satisfied with our preparedness." The configuration of the sub made battling the blaze complicated. "It was in the top of the submarine casing and firefighters couldn't get on board to fight it. We had to be concerned with stability as well. With all the water coming on board we had to make sure the vessel wasn't getting too heavy in the water or leaning too much to one side," said Elliot. "I'm happy with all of the training we've done to prepare for something like this and the fire services did a great job."

Elliot went on board the decommissioned submarine Thursday morning using portable air monitoring equipment. "We got as far as we could towards the engine room before the alarm on the monitor went off warning us to not go any further," said Elliot, adding damage to the aluminum walkways was "extensive".

As of Friday Elliot said the company hasn't been able to assess the damage, but is expecting the only real loss to be time. With the fire, Elliot said changes will be implemented when they begin working on recycling both 1,250-tonne Oberon class submarines at the Port Maitland shipyard. "Any grinding work will now be considered as 'hot work' much like welding or using a torch and any flammable material in an adjoining space will be wet down ... One thing is to be sure, we are certainly going to prepare so something like this doesn't happen again."

In the 40-plus years Elliot has been in the ship recycling business, he's only had to rely on fire departments to put out blazes twice. Both times the fires began when sparks managed to crawl up wires after workers had left.

The \$4.5 million recycling

project was expected to be completed in three months.

Source of this story is the [Dunnvillechronicle](http://www.dunnvillechronicle.com)

<http://www.dunnvillechronicle.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3331068>



### \$630 million a year to keep Australian Collins Class submarines afloat

Collins Class submarine HMAS Farncomb of the Australian Navy off the West Australian coast arriving for home porting at Fleet Base West. Picture: Supplied Source: Supplied

AUSTRALIA'S troubled Collins Class submarines are more than twice as costly to operate as US Navy nuclear submarines - which are five times larger.

Just two of the fleet of six boats could go to war now, and with a maximum of three available at any one time, the costs are even higher when applied to serviceability.

The annual price for "sustainment" (maintenance and support) is \$415.9 million for 2011-12 with operating costs (fuel, rations, wages, weapons etc) running at \$213.4 million for the 12 months for a total of \$629.3 million.

By comparison a US Navy Ohio class nuclear attack submarine, more than three times the size of a Collins boat, costs about \$50 million a year to operate.

Defence officials revealed at least two possible contenders for the navy's new submarine fleet, the Spanish S-80 and French-Spanish Scorpene class boat, have been ruled out of the future submarine project.

Answering questions on notice from opposition spokesman David Johnston, Defence said neither vessel met "Australia's broad needs as outlined in the Defence white paper". They are smaller than the Collins. The white paper calls for 12 larger subs costing up to \$36 billion.

In 2008, embarrassed navy brass ceased to detail the performance of the Collins fleet in the Defence annual report.

The 2007-08 performance outcome for the Collins fleet showed it achieved just 64 per cent of its mission capability or 559 days of actual availability.

Since then the figures have been classified as "secret".

Senator Johnston accused the government and Defence Minister Stephen Smith of taking their eye off the ball when it came to the submarines.



## THE SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION TROPHY

*A new award for the best recruit to the silent service*

A Plymouth based Submariner has become the first recipient of a new award donated to the Royal Navy by the National Submariners Association to be called "The Submariners Association Trophy".



Warfare Specialist Matthew Barker joined the Royal Navy last year and completed his professional training at the Royal Navy Submarine School, based within HMS Raleigh, in July 2011. His commitment and dedication to becoming a member of the Submarine Service marked him out as one of the top students and he was therefore judged to be a worthy winner of the new prize. He was formally presented with the Trophy by the Second Sea Lord and Commander in Chief Naval

Home Command Vice Admiral Charles Montgomery CBE ADC at the Passing out Parade at HMS Raleigh on Friday 14 October accompanied by Dave Barlow the Chairman of the Submariners Association.

The 25-year-old, who hales from Colchester, joined the Plymouth based submarine HMS Talent in August for the final stages of his submarine qualifying course. He said: "I'm rather flattered to receive this award. I didn't expect it and I'm very proud. I'm looking forward to taking it home to show my mum and dad, Pam and Mick. I really enjoyed training. It was very hard and extremely difficult at times, but I made some good friends and it's definitely the people you share it with that make it all the more rewarding. I've yet to go to sea on board HMS Talent, but so far I'm enjoying it and get on with everyone." Mathew is set to join HMS Turbulent temporarily to complete his 'Part 3' before rejoining HMS Talent.

The trophy will be awarded on a biannual basis to the recruit who displays and fully embraces the qualities expected not only of a member of the Royal Navy, but also of a potential Submariner. Each recipient must show his dedication to his chosen career path and display the requisite levels of professionalism, drive and outstanding moral fibre.

Mr Dave Barlow, the National Chairman of the Submariners Association, visited HMS

Raleigh to present the trophy to the Submarine School. He joined the Royal Navy in 1963 and served in submarines from 1970 to 1979. Mr Barlow said: "As an Association we wanted to have more interaction and engagement with serving Submariners.

The association is open to Submariners as soon as they qualify, so we decided to present a trophy to the school with the objectives to forge closer links with the younger submariners and that the recipient will go and tell his fellow Sub mariners about us and we can get more and more of them into the Association. For me the Submarine Service is the most professional and closely knit of all the services. Our association DVD is called "A Breed Apart A Band of Brothers" and that really sums us up.

Commander Nick Meredith, the Officer in Charge of the Royal Navy Submarine School, said: "We are very grateful to the Submariners Association for their support and the donation of this trophy. Heritage and ethos are very important to us in the Submarine Service and awards such as this mark the strong bond that exists between Submariners past and present."

Commander Nick Meredith, the Officer in Charge of the Royal Navy Submarine School, said: "We are very grateful to the Submariners Association for their support and the donation of this trophy.





Heritage and ethos are very important to us in the Submarine Service and awards such as this mark the strong bond that exists between Submariners past and present."

The new trophy is a replica of the 'Submariner' which forms part of the memorial in Westminster Abbey to the men of the Commandos, Royal Navy Submarine Service, Airborne and Special Air Service who fell in World War II. It was designed by Gilbert Ledward and was completed in 1946.

The Memorial was unveiled by Winston Churchill in May 1948 and is situated in the West Cloister of Westminster Abbey. Leading Electrical Mechanic (LTO) Reginald Lawrence Reid was the original model for the statue, which has since become the unofficial representative of the Submarine Service.

A silver copy was presented to Her Majesty the Queen on 8th June 1958 to mark the presentation of the first Queens Colour to the Royal Navy Submarine Service. It has been used on many commemorative items including small scale replicas made of different materials including: porcelain, plastic and even the lead from the batteries of Holland I, the Royal Navy's first submarine.

While the trophy itself will remain in the Royal Navy Submarine School, each recipient will receive an engraved miniature, a certificate, a booklet called "A Potted History of the Submariners Association" and the DVD "A Breed Apart a Band of Brothers" with his name included on a specially commissioned Honours Board.




The Submariners Association Presents

# Voce

Live at the 'Legion'  
Royal British Legion  
Holker St, Barrow-in-Furness

Friday 20th January 2012 8:00pm

Tickets £5.00:- Available from the Royal British Legion,  
or 01229 470954 & 07988849700

Popular Music With A Classical Twist

### SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES

- 1) You only need 2 tools in life, WD 40 and Masking tape. If it does not move and it should use the WD 40. If it moves and it should not use the Masking tape.
- 2) If you can't fix it with a hammer, you've got an electrical problem.
- 3) A mouse trap placed on top of your alarm clock will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.
- 4) Avoid cutting yourself when slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold the vegetables while you chop.

### Petition

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/3747>

Next year the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal will be presented to service personnel, emergency service personnel and prison officers with more than five years service. There are no plans to award the medal to veterans, many of whom have given a lot more than five years service during the reign of Her Majesty.

This petition asks that the medal should also be awarded to veterans who served Her Majesty during her 60 years on the throne.

Please sign it.



## The U-Boats that Surrendered

U-Boats at Lisahally in Lough Foyle, near Londonderry, N. Ireland.  
1945 to 1949

By  
Derek Waller  
PART 3

U-Boat Activity at Lisahally between May 1945 and February 1946

17) Whilst the original transfer of the surrendered German U-Boats to Loch Ryan and Lisahally was supposed to be simply a means of ensuring their safe-keeping pending Allied decisions about their future, the U-Boats at Lisahally were nevertheless subject to considerable activity between their arrival and the implementation of the Potsdam Agreement in August and the subsequent TNC decisions in October.

18) After the arrival of the eight U-Boats for Admiral Horton's formal surrender ceremony on 14 May, other U-Boats continued to arrive in threes and fours practically every other day until, by 31 May, there were 37 at Lisahally. Also, during the latter half of the month, U-1009, which was one of those which arrived on 14 May, was sailed up the River Foyle to Londonderry where it was open for visitors.

19) The other significant event at Lisahally in May was the arrival of the US Navy's Submarine Mission to Europe (SubMisEu), the specific purpose of which was to locate and take to the United States some of the high-technology German U-Boats that had been identified by US Naval Intelligence. To this end, a small team was formed in the USA in March 1945, and its particular target was the German's newly-developed, 1600 ton, high-speed, ocean-going, Type XXI U-Boat.

20) After VE Day, SubMisEu was rapidly expanded from its initial small cadre, and the

Mission, which was commanded by Captain George A Sharp USN, comprised some 150-200 US officers and men. It was formed at the US Navy Submarine Base in New London, Connecticut, and then flown to England. Initially it was based near Plymouth, before being flown to RNAS Maydown near Londonderry in late May 1945. The Mission was assigned a group of huts at Lisahally for both living quarters and administrative use, although the four most senior officers were allocated a large house in Clooney Park West in Londonderry.

21) As no Type XXI U-Boats had surrendered from sea in America, it was clear that if the US Navy was to obtain the two Type XXI U-Boats that it required, they would have to be selected from the 12 examples that had surrendered and which were in Royal Navy custody at Lisahally. However, the agreed allocation process was unlikely to be completed before the end of 1945 and, as a result, the US Navy, with the full support of the Royal Navy, decided to take urgent, covert and unilateral action to transfer two of the Type XXI U-Boats across the Atlantic without informing the Russians.

22) When the SubMisEu arrived at Lisahally at the end of May there were no Type XXI U-boats available for immediate hand-over to the US Naval party and so, for training purposes, they were given early access to a Type VIIC U-Boat, as well as to a Type IXC U-Boat (U-802). However, a number of Type XXI U-Boats arrived at Lisahally in early June, and one of these (U-2513) was quickly transferred to US Navy control. Then, during June further Type XXI U-Boats arrived from Norway, as did U-3008, which had sailed from Germany on 21 June and which arrived at Lisahally on 27 June. After that, the US Navy returned the Type VIIC U-Boat to Royal Navy control, and took over U-2506 and U-3008. SubMisEu then decided that the latter, along with U-2513, would be the two U-Boats to be moved to the

USA, and that U-2506 would be used simply as a source of spares.

23) June also saw much U-Boat activity at Lisahally, with more arriving from Norway, and some being transferred to Loch Ryan, and by the end of the month there were 58 U-Boats at Lisahally. At the same time, the Royal Navy was preparing to conduct trials with a number of the U-Boats, again without the knowledge or prior approval of the Russians. To this end, the Royal Navy's Admiral (Submarines) held a meeting in London on 25 June to discuss the Royal Navy's plans for early (and covert) "Trials to be carried out in, and with, U-Boats" and, as a result, the first two U-Boats involved - the Type VIICs U-1105 and U-1171 - were sailed to Holy Loch in Scotland on 29 June. Additionally, the large transport U-Boat, U-861, was moved to Pembroke Dock near Milford Haven on 10 June for the removal of 110 tons of tin, 30 tons of wolfram and 40 tons of rubber which it had been transporting from Japan to Germany before it had surrendered.

24. On 5 July Captain P Q Roberts took over command as Captain (Submarines), Lisahally, and the month continued as a busy time for the U-Boats. No more surrendered U-Boats arrived, and by 31 July there were 51 U-Boats under British control and four under American control. Major events included the transfer of U-2326 and U-2502 to Holy Loch for Royal Navy trials on 6 July, and the return of the Dutch submarine (U-Boat) UD-5 to Dutch Navy control. It was re-named O.27 (which was its original designation before being captured by the Germans in 1940) and, under the command of Lt De Beer RNN, it sailed from Lisahally with a Dutch crew on 24 July.

25) As far as the Americans were concerned, there were two significant events in the month. First, on 1 July, an American seaman almost lost his life when a fire broke out whilst he was removing an electrical switch from U-2506 for use in U-2513.



He was however saved by a German petty officer who volunteered to rescue him from the smoke-filled compartment. The second event was the formation of a society called "The Forgotten Submarine Bastards of Ireland" (FSBI). Many of the Americans were homesick and frustrated by what they saw as unnecessary delays in returning home with their two U-Boats, and this was a way of easing the tension. Membership cards were printed, and the initiation ceremony involved being rubber stamped on the right buttock with a design of shamrocks and the letters "FSBI". Indeed, some even went as far as having it tattooed on, and very proud of it they were too.

26) However, the main event of the month was the Royal Visit on 19 July, when their Majesties the King and Queen and HRH Princess Elizabeth passed through Lisahally en route to Londonderry. The Royal party arrived by car at the American Jetty, where the Lisahally ship's company and officers were lined up, together with a US Navy Honor Guard. After being introduced to Captain Roberts, their Majesties walked past the Type XXI U-Boats, but did not go onboard. They then talked to a number of the officers and men from both the British and the American crews, before embarking in the yacht Hiniesta and continuing up river to Londonderry.

27) August was another busy month for the U-Boats at Lisahally, with the Type XXI U-Boat U-2502 (commanded by the famous Lt J S (Jimmy) Launder DSO\*, DSC\*, RN), being returned from Birkenhead with a burnt out main motor which had prevented it being used for the planned RN trials. In its place, U-3017 sailed for Barrow on 8 August. Also, the two Type VIIC U-Boats, U-1105 and U-1171, which were already being used for RN trials paid short visits, and on 25 August the large cargo-carrying Type IXD U-Boat, U-875, was sailed to Birkenhead for the

removal of its cargo of optical glass and mercury carried in its keel.

28) The main event of the month was the departure of the US SubMisEu with their two Type XXI U-boats, U-2513 and U-3008, which sailed to the USA on 6 August escorted by the US Navy submarine rescue vessel USS Brant, which had arrived from Bremerhaven in Germany loaded with Type XXI spares. However, this was not before the Mission had returned U-802 and U-2506 to Royal Navy control, and a cocktail party to say farewell to Captain Sharp and his officers had been held in the Wardroom at Lisahally House on 4 August. The last significant event in the month occurred on 29 August, when the TNC party arrived to begin its 6-day inspection of the U-Boats, an activity that was conducted under a certain amount of tension, but which was eventually completed in a shorter time than had at first seemed possible. At the end of the month, there were 53 U-Boats remaining at Lisahally.

29) September was notable for the transfer of 15 Type VIIC U-Boats from Lisahally to Loch Ryan in order to ease the congestion in Lough Foyle. This was effected by means of a daily shuttle service, with the U-Boats sailing, under escort, each morning, and the escort returning each evening with the U-Boat crews. On 12 September U-875 returned from Birkenhead having been unloaded, but on 19 September it's sister U-Boat, U-874, was sailed to Birkenhead for dry docking and the removal of it's keel cargo. There was a visit to Lisahally on 22 September by the Governor of Northern Ireland, the Earl of Granville, and his wife, the Countess of Granville, and they were accompanied by Flag Officer, Northern Ireland who inspected the accommodation to ensure its acceptability for the coming winter. Finally, on 30 September there were just 38 surrendered U-Boats remaining at Lisahally.

30) Once the TNC allocations

had been announced on 10 October, the main activity at Lisahally in the month was the work necessary to make the 10 U-Boats that had been allocated to the Russian Navy ready for their transfer. Additionally, on 15 October the Type XXIII U-Boat, U-2326, was returned from Holy Loch, having completed its planned trials, and on 21 October the Type XXI U-Boat, U-3017, was returned from Barrow after an on-board explosion and fire, which caused the Royal Navy to cancel all further trials with any of the Type XXI U-Boats. On 22 October U-874 returned from Birkenhead, having unloaded its cargo, providing a little bit of light relief in the process when (to quote Captain Roberts) "while coming up river it made a spirited attempt to demolish the Longfield Light Pylon, owing to a failure of steering gear". Luckily, U-874 just managed to avoid the pylon, but instead succeeded in going aground alongside it at the top of the spring tide. However, after a day on the mud, the U-Boat was refloated on the evening tide without having sustained any damage. At the end of the month there were 40 surrendered U-Boats at Lisahally.

31. On 1 November four more U-Boats arrived from Loch Ryan. Three of these were due to be transferred to Russia, and the fourth to the USA (although that transfer was subsequently cancelled). However, the principal activities of Captain (Submarines), Lisahally and his staff concerned the arrangements for the transfer of the U-Boats to Russia in Operation Cabal, which began on 23 November.

Continues with Part 4 in  
December Issue





## WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Former Member Barrow-in-Furness  
Branch

3rd October 2011

Mike Bycroft

Petty Officer (TI)

D055919

Aged 66

Submarine Service 1963-1972  
Orpheus, Resolution (twice) &  
Churchill

East Kent

October 2011

J (Dolly) Gray

Petty Officer (LTO)

C/JX 142088

Aged 92

Submarine Service 1943-1944  
P555, Oberon & Proteus

Medway Towns

October 2011

A (Tony) Green

LME

P/K 946138

Aged 75

Submarine Service 1960-1966  
Including Onslaught & Astute

Non Member

October 2011

R(Robert) Krouse

Leading Seaman (UC)

Aged 55

Submarine Service including  
Courageous

East Kent

October 2011

P (Peter) Powell

ME1

P/K 979785

Aged 72

Submarine Service 1961-1969  
Including Narwhal

Non Member

October 2011

G (George) Steel

Chief Engine Room Artificer

Aged 93

Submarine Service to be advised

Non member

October 2011

George Neder

Warrant Officer

Submarine Service to be advised

Non Member

5th October 2011

David (Whisky) Walker

Petty Officer (SSM)

Aged 49

Submarine Service to be advised

Merseyside Branch

7th September 2011

William (Bill) Wright

Submarine Service 1959-1965

Seraph, Finwhale & Odin

Non Member

October

Dennis N F Mears

Captain (Engineer)

Aged 85

Submarine Service on Amphion

## BECAUSE YOU'RE GORGEOUS AND YOU'RE WORTH IT



*Beauty Secrets* is an exclusive salon situated in Croslands Park, where you can enjoy a wide range of professional beauty and holistic therapies in a relaxing environment and escape from the pressures of every day life. Why not try one of our essential nails, lash or brow treatments in time for your Ladies Night or indulge in a facial or one of the many massages such as a hot stone massage to promote deep muscle relaxation or an aromatherapy massage where the essential oils can help restore the harmony of the mind, body and spirit.

Gift vouchers are available and make a thoughtful gift for the special someone in your life.

Ladies, this month's *Beauty Secret* is, when applying a dark lipstick always use a lip liner first and blend into your lip area as this will stop your lipstick from feathering out of the lip area and will give your lips more definition!

**CALL 07855 899632 TODAY AND RECEIVE £5 OFF YOUR FIRST TREATMENT. BECAUSE YOU'RE GORGEOUS AND YOU'RE WORTH IT.**

*Please quote the Submariners Newsletter when making your appointment.*

## Consultation to start on nuclear sub dismantling

A public consultation on the dismantling of the UK's retired nuclear submarines is set to get under way.

Rosyth in Fife and Devonport in Plymouth are the two preferred sites being considered as locations for removing the radioactive material from the vessels.

The consultation, which gets under way on Friday, will look at how and where this process will be carried out. It will also consider where the waste should be stored initially. Babcock's Rosyth dockyard is currently home to seven nuclear submarines, while a further 10 are stored at Devonport. The storage of submarines at Rosyth currently supports about 100 jobs, though safety concerns are being expressed locally about what will happen to the submarines' nuclear fuel.

Rear Admiral Simon Lister, of the MoD's Defence Equipment and Support organisation, said

the cost to the taxpayer of maintaining the submarines was "rising significantly" and space to store them was running out.

"Developing a solution now, rather than leaving future generations to do so, is the responsible course of action," he said. "There is no reason to believe there will be any increased health risk from submarine dismantling activities. "Submarine dismantling, like all nuclear work, will be robustly regulated to stringent standards by the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the environment agencies."

He added: "We are keen to hear the views of as many people as possible during this public consultation, to help us make the right decisions about how to dispose of our nuclear submarines."

The consultation is due to run for 16 weeks. It will include a series of local events which will take place in Plymouth, Torpoint, Saltash, Rosyth, Dunfermline and Edinburgh, as well as national events in Birmingham and Glasgow.



### German subs for Israel

Germany is reconsidering its sale of a sixth submarine to Israel in the wake of new tensions over Jewish settlement construction, an Israeli newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Yediot Aharonot said Berlin was rethinking the deal because of German frustration over Israel's decision to approve new settlement building in annexed east Jerusalem, which has raised tensions between the two countries. The Israeli daily, citing unnamed "high-ranking officials," said the deal had been jeopardized by fraying relations between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.


Merkel was reported to have strongly criticized the Israeli premier during a telephone call last month, saying she had "absolutely no understanding" of Israel's decision to increase settlement building in east Jerusalem.

Speaking to Israeli public radio on Wednesday, defense ministry director general Udi Shani declined to confirm or deny the reported problems with the submarine deal. "It's a very complicated, very sensitive file that is under discussion. There are many parameters that have to be taken into account," he said.

There have been conflicting reports about whether Israel even wants to buy a sixth Dolphin-class submarine from Germany. The Israeli navy currently has three Dolphin-class submarines, two of which were bought after the 1991 Gulf War. Two others are on order from Germany and being built at the Kiel shipyard. They are due for delivery in 2012.


Media reports have said the submarines can carry nuclear warheads and have an operating range of 4,500 kilometers (2,800 miles). In July 2010, the defense ministry denied that Israel was looking to purchase a sixth submarine, after media reports said Berlin had rejected an Israeli request for subsidies for the sale.

[www.astuteclass.com](http://www.astuteclass.com)



November 2011

## Members Birthdays

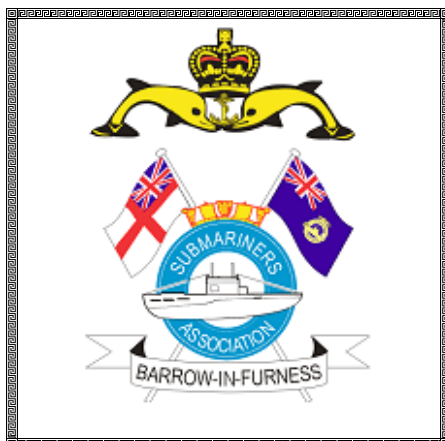


J. Brutton	02/11
G. Hockey	03/11
D. Duncombe	08/11
J. Smith	08/11
P. Schofield	09/11
T. Fry	11/11
D. Brough	13/11
S. Hutton	16/11
V. Miles	17/11
I. Clark	18/11
A. Mitchell	21/11
M. Lacey	22/11
M. Davenport	22/11
N. Lambert	27/11
T. Janes	29/11
J. Wood	29/11
J. Thomas	30/11
M. Allan	30/11



#### 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 November for the December 2011 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 2011

### November

- Tuesday 1st Monthly meeting RBL 2000
- Sunday 6th Embankment Parade
- Friday 11th Ladies night D/D Black Tie 1900 Abbey House
- Sunday 13th Remembrance day Parade 1015 Barrow
- Tuesday 15th Branch Committee meeting 1930 RBL

### December

- Tuesday 6th Monthly meeting RBL 2000
- Saturday 17th Xmas Social RBL 1930
- Tuesday 20th Branch Committee Meeting RBL 1930



# Solve the submarine wordsquare

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's wordsquare has a 2012 London Olympics theme with clues based on Barrow vessels with names from the classical world.

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

## CLUES

1. ACHILLES

2. ADONIS

3. AJAX

4. APHRODITE

5. APOLLO

6. ATHENIA

7. CASSANDRA

8. DELPHUS

9. DIOMEDE

10. HERCULES

11. HERMES

12. OLYMPUS

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

Last month's wordsquare solution (below)

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



CLASSIC NAME: *Olympus* being launched at Barrow in 1961. See if you can find its name in the grid with those of other Barrow vessels



Front View of Monument



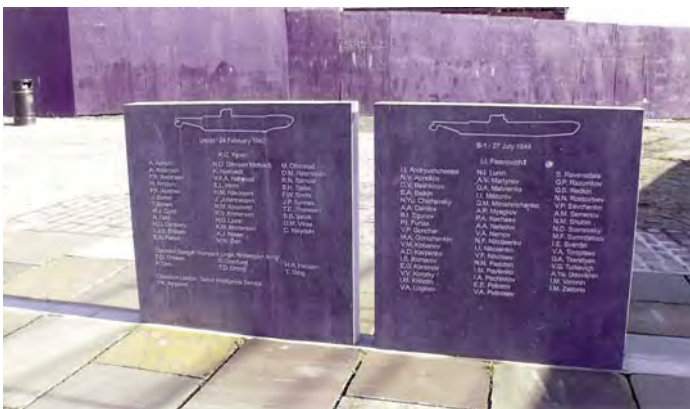
Reverse View of Monument



To The right of the monument



French Monument Facing the Main Monument



To The Left of the monument



To The Left at R/angle to main monument



To The right of the monument

