



**BARROW SA
BRANCH
OFFICIALS**

December 2011 Submariners Association

Issue 138

newsletter

Barrow-in-Furness Branch

Twinned with SAOC (East)



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HMS Tally-Ho

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CHAIRMAN'S December Word

Hello to you all. It has been quite busy of late and we still have the Festive Season to reconnoitre hopefully without too many headaches.

Well, what did you think of the Ladies Night at the new venue of Abbey House? I have had some feedback which was constructive so thanks to those who took time out to do that. It wasn't all good but it seems the plusses far outweighed the minuses. I would like to personally thank Colin Hutchinson for arranging it all and the fine detail he went to make it, for me anyway, a night to remember. If anyone out there still has any feedback then please let Colin or indeed any of the Committee know.

What a great turnout we had for the Remembrance Day parade. We counted about 30 but there could

have been more out of sight. The parade is getting bigger every year and is a great reflection on the Barrow people that they turn out in such numbers and the branch turnout gets bigger every year too. Well done chaps and of course your good ladies who joined us. As usual we repaired to the British Legion and held our own unique remembrance which is becoming an integral part of the day. You could hear a pin drop as the names of the Submarines lost were read out. It was all quite emotional.

The Co-operative Funeral Care once again provided a limousine to take some of our less agile members and wives from their home to the Cenotaph in the Park. They were able to sit in the warmth of the car until the parade arrived and then on completion of the Remembrance and Wreath Laying Service were taken to the Royal British Legion or back home as they wished. I would like to thank the Management and Staff of the Co-operative Funeral

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Care in Roose Road for their continued support of the Submariners Association.

Barrie Downer represented the branch at the K2B prize giving or rather donation giving.

We were awarded £700 which will go straight into the Charity Chest to allow us to do what we are good at and that is making sure we do our bit to bring a bit of cheer to those not as fortunate as ourselves.

A couple of weeks ago I was down in Solihull with my National hat on looking at a hotel for our reunions next year. Although we had previously gone for one in Bristol the National Committee were not happy with the package and I was unable to improve on it and particularly some of the small print was really unacceptable. The bottom line is the Full members Reunion will be at the St John's Hotel in Solihull which is nice and convenient whether you go by car, train or plane. It is allegedly the most central town in England. Hopefully applications forms will be available at the December meeting and attached to this newsletter.

The date is Friday 30th March to Sunday 1st April or even the Monday if you wish. Due to the renegotiations and the shortened timescale I really need your applications ASAP. I am accepting individual applications so you don't have to wait for the next branch meeting.

I will finish off by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Social Secretary December 2011



Well the Ladies night Dinner Dance has been and gone, and I believe it was a great success. I have received a lot of feedback from those attending who thoroughly enjoyed themselves, however I have also received some feedback that highlighted a few small problems, when I have collected them all from our Chairman I will be addressing them with the Abbey House hotel, these were in the main centered on one particular table. On the whole though it was an excellent turnout, the room was set up nicely and the entertainment was very good. If you did attend and have any comments I will only be too pleased to hear them.

Our next Social function is the Branch Christmas party which is to be held on Saturday 17th December at the RBL, the format is the same as past years i.e. Casual dress or fancy dress if you like!! Bring a plate of food, you friends / wives / partners and kick off your Christmas celebrations dancing to our own Billy Daniels and Shindig, Cost will be £2.00 to cover the entertainment, pay at the door, and also bring a raffle prize if possible.

Don't forget that we will be first footing the Morecambe branch on the 6th January 2012, names to me at the December meeting, I need a volunteer to drive the Mini bus for that night, unfortunately I cannot make it as I am working.

I will be assembling the Social programme for 2012, if you have any requests for socials please get your ideas to me ASAP.

I would like to thank you all for your support you have given at the various functions we have had this year and wish all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Colin Hutchinson
Social Secretary



Wall Mural in Belfast of James Magennis VC, picture taken by Joan Cole on a recent trip

Israel transferred Palestinian taxes for German submarine sale - report

German's "Welt am Sonntag" reports that Israel's decision to release taxes withheld from the Palestinian Authority after Germany was a condition for the completion of the sale of the sixth Dolphin-class submarine to Israel. The "Welt am Sonntag" says that aides of Chancellor Angela Merkel confidentially informed opposition leaders that Israel made a concession before the Bundestag approved the sale on Wednesday.

On the same day, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu released \$100 million in Palestinian Authority taxes that had been withheld after UNESCO accepted Palestine as a full member.

"Bloomberg" quotes German sources as saying that the submarine was sold at a third of the price of the first Dolphin submarine. The Bundestag approved a €135 million budget allocation for the submarine in 2012, out of the submarine's total cost of €180 million.

Media reports claim that the latest Dolphin can carry nuclear-tipped cruise missiles.

Barrow Submarine Series: issue number 37

HMS Tally-Ho



WARTIME SURVIVOR: The Barrow-built HMS *Tally-Ho* was launched just before Christmas in 1942

THE wartime submarine *HMS Tally-Ho* was built as *P317* by Vickers at Barrow with help from the John Brown firm on Clydebank.

Tally-Ho was part of the third group of the T-class boats and was launched on December 23 in 1942.

The boat had a successful war – surviving the conflict intact and claiming some notable victories.

Under the command of Captain Leslie Bennington DSO and Bar, DSC and two Bars, the *Tally-Ho* served in the Far East and sank 13 small Japanese sailing vessels, a Japanese coaster, the Japanese water carrier *Kisogawa Maru*, the Japanese army cargo ships *Ryuko* and *Daigen Maru No.6*, the Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser *Cha 2*, the Japanese auxiliary minelayer *Ma 4* and the German submarine *UIT-23*.

She also damaged a small Japanese motor vessel, and laid mines, one of which damaged the Japanese merchant tanker *Nichiyoku Maru*.

The biggest prize by far was a Japanese light cruiser.

On January 11 in 1944, *Tally-Ho* spotted the *Kuma* on anti-submarine warfare exercises about 10 miles off Penang.

Tally-Ho fired a seven-torpedo salvo at the Japanese cruiser from 1,900 yards, striking the mark with two and setting the ship on fire.

Kuma sank by the stern.

The Barrow boat sank the German commanded U-boat *UIT-23* just off the western mouth of Malacca Strait on February 14 in 1944.

And on October 29 that year, *Tally-Ho* departed Ceylon carrying a



WAR SERVICE: *Tally-Ho* sank a Japanese light cruiser in 1944

secret OSS-sponsored three-man Free Thai team bound for Siam.

On the way, *Tally-Ho* tried unsuccessfully to intercept a German submarine.

The journey was further delayed by a search for downed Allied airmen near the Straits of Malacca.

The Free Thai team was finally landed on Ko Kradan, Trang Province, on 9 November.

Tally-Ho continued in service with the Royal Navy after the war, finally being scrapped at Briton Ferry, Wales on 10 February 1967.

STATS:

- Builder: Vickers Armstrong, Barrow and John Brown, Clydebank
- Ordered: 4 November, 1940
- Laid down: 25 March, 1941
- Launched: 23 December, 1942

- Commissioned: 12 April, 1943
- Displacement: 1,290 tons surfaced, 1,560 tons submerged
- Length: 276 ft 6 in (84.28 m)
- Beam: 25 ft 6 in (7.77 m)
- Propulsion: Two shafts powered by twin Davey Paxman diesel engines, each of 2,500 hp or twin electric motors
- Speed: 15.5 knots (28.7 km/h) surfaced and 9 knots (20 km/h) submerged
- Range: 4,500 nautical miles at 11 knots surfaced
- Test depth: 300 ft (91 m)
- Complement: 61
- Armament: Six internal and five external torpedo tubes with six reloads; a 4-inch (100 mm) deck gun; a 20mm Oerlikon anti-aircraft gun and three anti-aircraft machine guns.



Barrie Downer Secretary

November has been quite a hectic month for the Branch. The Branch Meeting on 1st November was one of our best attended Meetings if not 'the best attended' Meeting.

There were forty five Branch Members in attendance, one visitor from the Manchester Branch (Paul Dawes who is currently working in the Barrow area) and three visitors from HMS AMBUSH all three of whom joined the Branch after the Meeting.

These three new Members are Geoff Gardner, Denis Thompson and Harry Weaver. Harry Weaver is the son of our Branch Member Neil Weaver. One other new Member is Alex Hustwayte who lives in Hereford so we won't see him at too many meetings! Alex was 'Boatmates' with our late Branch Member Harry Wetton they both served together in HMS SCORCHER a little while ago.

A very warm welcome is extended to all our new Members. So a big thank you to all Members and new Members for making it a very good evening for us all.

The raffle was, as usual, well supported and boosted our 50th Anniversary funds so thanks very much to all those who contributed.

So what else has happened in November?

The Embankment Memorial Parade took place on Sunday 6th November. Dave Barlow was present in his capacity of Submariners Association National Chairman and Branch Member David A J Smith laid a wreath on behalf of the Barrow Branch.

On Friday 11th November there was a meeting in the Dock Museum with the Council (Dave Piddick and Bob Pointer) and a

representative of AE1 Incorporated (Tom Tribe) and several Branch Members to discuss the possibility of establishing a Memorial in Barrow to the first Australian Submarines AE1 and AE2 both built in Barrow prior to WWI and both lost during that War. A separate article about this plan is in this news letter. Also on Friday 11th the Branch placed Poppy Crosses on the Graves of three Submariners in the Thorncliffe Cemetery. The graves marked were those of Chief ERA Harry Jenner (a war grave) - who was killed in a bombing raid in 1941 whilst 'Standing By' HMS UNBENDING (P37) which was building in the Yard, Commander Alastair Shand Cumming who also died in 1941 a retired Submarine Commanding Officer who had been working in the Shipyard for the Admiralty organising Sea Trials of Submarines and Stoker 1st Class John Henry Curtis who drowned in Devonshire Dock in 1902 when a member of the Crew of the Submarine Tender HMS HAZARD. A fourth cross was placed on the war grave of a Midshipman who was serving in the Battle Ship HMS ZEALANDIA when he died in 1917.

Friday 11th November also saw our Annual Ladies Night Dinner Dance this year at the Abbey House Hotel. The Dinner Dance was very well attended this year and our Guest of Honour was Tom Tribe of AE Incorporated with his wife Vicky. Tom stood in at very short notice as our original Guest of Honour was to have been John Freel, OBE. John Freel, unfortunately, was unable to attend owing to illness. Colin will cover the detail of the Dinner Dance in his Social Secretary's Dit.

Having helped out the Royal British Legion with the distribution of the Poppy Collection Boxes in October Branch Members also assisted with the collection of, and return of, the Boxes to the Legion for counting. As yet we don't know how much was collected.

Branch Members also participated in the BAE sponsored

Poppy Events in Barrow Schools.

A big thank you to John Hart who co-ordinated the Branch input and all those Branch Members who assisted.

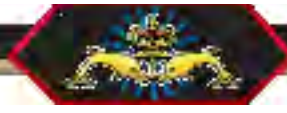
The Remembrance Day Parade this year was on Sunday 13th November. Some twenty seven Branch Members 'Mustered' in Town Hall Square at 1010 and 'Marched Off' at 1035. On the way the Parade was ordered to 'Eyes Left' as we passed the Submariners Association Memorial Benches in Coronation Garden before arriving at the Cenotaph 1055 where the Submariners Platoon was joined by other Members taking our numbers to over thirty. This year the whole Parade was bigger than in previous years and the numbers of the public attending at the Cenotaph was also much larger than in previous.

On completion of the Cenotaph Ceremonies the Parade 'Marched Back' to the Royal British Legion for our Submariners Remembrance and 'Up Spirits'. More Members and their wives joined us as did the Platoon from HMS AMBUSH. Branch Member John Smith arranged for 'Pie & Peas' to be available and the Committee arranged for fifty 'Pie & Peas' tickets to be available for Branch Members participating - all the tickets were taken up.

The kind offer by the Coop Funeral Director to provide transport to and from the Cenotaph for Branch Members unable to march in the Parade was taken up by several Members.

Events for the month continued with the Branch Committee Meeting on 15th November and the Christmas Lights 'Switch On' in Town Hall Square on Saturday 19th November. Half a dozen Branch Members provided a squad to assist in the stewarding of this event.

The Town Hall Square was packed for the 'Switch On'.



There is only one more event to attend this Month and that is the Keswick to Barrow Awards Evening on Tuesday 29th November which we have been invited to attend. Hopefully the Branch will be receiving another award this year to boost our charitable funds in the 'Charity Chest'. I hope to be able to advise the Branch on the evening at the next Branch Meeting.

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 a letter from the Council responding to a letter I sent to them with a copy of the anonymous letter we received about the circumstances surrounding the move of the Valiant Bench. The Council's letter confirms that the similar Memorial Bench which has appeared on Walney Island just down from the Round House is actually the 'Valiant Bench' with a different Tally Plate. The 'new' Tally Plate is actually the original one turned round and re-engraved.

The Bench was apparently moved 'temporarily' during the recent refurbishment of the Park but not re-instated as it did not fit in with the 'Edwardian Theme' of the renovated area. The Council have now offered to recover the Valiant Tally Plate and fit it to another 'similar' Bench in Victoria Park close to the Cenotaph. Although the circumstances around these events are somewhat unsatisfactory the Council offer appears to be the best way forward and we will write to the Council to make the appropriate arrangements. A 'Re-Dedication' of the new Bench will need to be arranged in due course.

At the last Committee Meeting Mick Mailey reported that Branch membership was 185 Members. This is a different total to the one we previously reported (174) and was the result of a lot of checking going on between the Branch

Committee and National Records to resolve this issue. We now have a corrected list of Members before we are due to pay National Subscriptions in the New Year.

If you still 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 December 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 forgetting to pay your Branch & National Subscriptions if not please do so as soon as possible.

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.

Upcoming events for December the Branch Meeting on Tuesday 6th December followed by the

Branch Christmas Social on Saturday 17th December see Colin's Report.

Looking a bit further forward there is the 'First Footing to Morecambe in January (again see Colin's Report), the 'VOCE' concert on 20th January and the annual West of Scotland Branch 'K13 Weekend' coming up on weekend 27th to 29th January 2012.

A list of names for the K13 weekend has been passed to Jim McMaster but if you still want to go let me know as soon as possible. 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 December Branch Meeting on Tuesday 6th December RBL Concert Room at 2000 same time as usual. See you there don't be late!

Barrie





PROPOSED AUSTRALIAN SUBMARINE MEMORIAL IN BARROW

By Barrie Downer

BACKGROUND

Four Submarines for the Royal Australian Navy were built in the Vickers Shipyard at Barrow-in-Furness in the last Century. These were AE1 and AE2 built prior to the First World War and OXLEY and OTWAY built in the 1920's. It is also believed that the Barrow Shipyard carried out some modifications to six 'J' Class Submarines (in late 1918/early 1919) prior to their transfer from the Royal Navy to the Royal Australian Navy post WWI.



Both AE1 and AE2 were lost in WWI.

AE1 manned by a mixed crew of Royal Navy and Australian personnel was the first submarine to be lost in that War and vanished without trace with the loss of all hands in the Pacific in September 1914. AE2 was lost in the Sea of Marmora after the first successful passage through the Dardanelles during the Gallipoli campaign in 1915. Although all on board AE2 were saved several crew members died whilst Prisoners of War in Turkey.



The wreck of AE2 was located and positively identified in the Sea of Marmara several years ago. OXLEY was, coincidentally, the first Submarine lost in WWII in September 1939 when she was torpedoed in error by HMS TRITON in the North Sea. OTWAY survived WWII and was later scrapped.

AE1 Incorporated

An Australian based organisation AE1 Incorporated has been set up with the intention of locating AE1 before the 100th Anniversary of the loss of AE1 (on 14th September 1914) and to commemorate all those lost. To this end efforts to locate AE1 are continuing and a Memorial was set up in Sydney in September 2011 in a ceremony which brought together descendants of those lost in AE1, representatives of AE1 Inc., the Royal Australian Navy and Civic representatives.

To recognise the Royal Navy and British involvement in the early Australian Submarine programmes AE1 Inc. also plans to establish similar Memorials at a suitable locations in Britain commemorating AE1 and, possibly, AE2, OXLEY and OTWAY.

One of the potential locations identified is Barrow-in-Furness where the Submarines were built.

Mr Tom Tribe a distant relative of one of the AE1 Crew members and a UK based representative of AE1 Inc. visited Barrow on Friday 11th November to identify potential locations for a Memorial (possibly in or near the Dock Museum) and for discussions with members of the Barrow in Furness Branch of the Submariners Association and the Barrow Town Council to identify the way ahead and to see if a suitable location could be identified.

These discussions had a positive outcome and plans to progress the establishment of a Memorial in Barrow are progressing. It is hoped that the Barrow Branch will support

efforts to establish the Memorial ideally in 2013 coincidental with the 100th Anniversary of Australian Submarines and the 50th Anniversary of the inauguration of the Barrow Branch of the Submariners Association.

Local Involvement

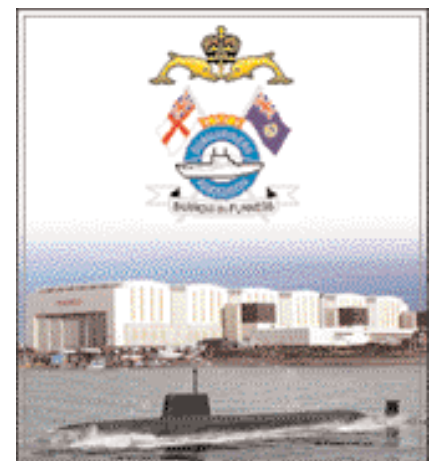
Assuming that the suitable location can be identified for a Memorial in Barrow it is intended to involve as many Barrow based Companies and Organisations as possible to establish the Memorial. As the successors to Vickers Shipbuilders it is hoped that BAE Submarine Solutions will be able to support this Project.

It is also intended to involve serving Submariners based in Barrow in the Project.

Over the next few weeks it is intended to form a Committee to progress this venture and to decide both the design of the Memorial and agree the preferred location and also to identify companies and organisations to assist in the project and to identify costs and sources of funding.

Any Members wishing to be part of that Committee are requested to identify themselves to the Secretary.

<http://www.ae1.org.au/AE1-Incorporated.php>



POPPY CHALLENGE

In the past three years at the time of Remembrance, BAE Systems team of volunteers under the guidance of Joe Sides arranged a Poppy Challenge which can be entered by Primary Schools in the town. Schools entering this challenge are all given the same task, it may be making poppies, a large poppy or like this year a poster illustrating their ideas of poppies and remembrance, to display at the Cenotaph at Barrow Park on Remembrance Sunday



In order to help the children understand about the poppy and remembrance a small team of BAE and veterans visit the schools taking part. These teams explain to the children taking part what is expected to be produced not how but what. Part of the teams are volunteers from the Barrow Submariners Association who could answer questions related to their experience in the forces from some of the children who were well informed about remembrance and associated subjects.

Volunteers from the Branch included John Hart, Alan West, Mike Dack, Bob Palmer, Alan Jones and Terry Spurling looking at the ages of these volunteers when Joe described us as veterans it was harder to explain that one does not have to be old to be a veteran.

The pictures were kindly supplied by Yarlside School and show veterans and four

children, who were taking part, standing in front of the schools large mural of remembrance poppies in the reception area.



VIRGINIA MUTATES

One of the U.S. Navy's four SSGNs (cruise missile firing nuclear sub) was used in combat for the first time last March, firing 90 missiles at Libyan targets. But those four SSGNs will all be retired in about 15 years, and the navy has a plan for replacements, even though there is very little money for new ship types. The plan is to build some modified (to be SSGNs) Virginia SSNs (nuclear attack subs). This will be done by adding a 30 meter (94 foot) section to the hull, which would contain 26 cruise missiles. Virginias already carry 16 of these, but the SSGN models would have a more respectable 40. Fifteen "stretched" Virginias would provide about the same amount of cruise missiles, but spread among more ships. A Virginia SSGN would cost about 25 percent (\$500 million) more than a Virginia SSN.

The current SSGNs made an impressive combat debut last March 19th. Most of the Tomahawk cruise missiles (over a hundred) launched on that day were fired by one ship; the SSGN USS Florida. While this was the first time an SSGN saw combat, it was not the first time nuclear subs have fired missiles in wartime (U.S. SSNs have fired Tomahawks several times.) The USS Florida was one of four Ohio class ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) converted to

cruise missile submarines (SSGN). The USS Florida and the other three SSGNs entered service over the last five years. Each of these Ohio class SSGNs carry 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles, along with space for 66 commandos (usually SEALs) and their equipment.

The idea of converting ballistic missile subs to be SSGNs, rather than scrap them to fulfill disarmament agreements, has been bouncing around since the 1990s. After September 11, 2001, the idea got some traction. The navy submariners love this one, because they lost a lot of their reason for being with the end of the Cold War. The United States had built a powerful nuclear submarine force during the Cold War, but with the rapid disappearance of the Soviet navy in the 1990s, there was little reason to keep over a hundred nuclear subs in commission. These boats are expensive, costing over a billion each to build and over a million dollars a week to operate. The four Ohio class SSBN being converted each have at least twenty years of life left in them.



The idea of a sub, armed with 154 highly accurate cruise missiles, and capable of rapidly traveling under water (ignoring weather, or observation) at a speed of over 1,200 kilometers a day, to a far off hot spot, had great appeal in the post-Cold War world. The ability to carry a large force of commandos as well was also attractive. In one sub you have your choice of hammer or scalpel. More capable cruise missiles are in the works as well. Whether or not this multi-billion dollar investment will pay off remains to be seen, but it certainly worked off Libya.



Bulgarian Navy



The Bulgarian Navy has formally shut down its submarine unit at a ceremony in the main naval base in the Black Sea city of Varna, officially retiring the last operational Bulgarian submarine "Slava" (i.e. "Glory").

The ceremony was attended by Read Admiral Plamen Manushev, Commander-in-Chief of the Bulgarian Navy, navy servicemen, and veterans, reported BGNES.

The commander of the submarine division of the Bulgarian Navy Capt. Kamen Kukurov delivered the flag of the Slava submarine to the Varna Museum of Military History. Even though in August 2009, the Bulgarian Navy had an open-door day dedicated to the 55 years since the restoration of its submarine force, a year later the Bulgarian Defense Minister said the Navy will most likely do away with its submarine unit, according to Defense Minister Anyu Angelov. The life of the only operational Bulgarian submarine "Slava" (i.e. "Glory") expired, and it is to be retired in the coming months which will mean shutting down altogether Bulgaria's submarine force.

Bulgaria's submarine force was formally set up as an individual unit during World War I, in 1916. After the end of the war, however, it was shut down as part of the provisions of the Treaty of Neuilly-sur-Seine of 1919 in which the Allies banned Bulgaria from having submarines.

In 1954, the Soviet Union gave Bulgaria three submarines, and in 1958, two more. The Slava submarine was one of the two presented in 1958 and just turned 42. Even though it is deemed operational, it is in a deplorable condition and can only go under water for short intervals of time. The only other Bulgarian submarine that was operation in the recent years was the Nadezhda (i.e. "Hope"); it has practically been retired for ten years because it lacks a battery. At the beginning of 2009, the Bulgarian Navy considered turning it into a museum.

The mid 1980s, and especially 1983-1985 were the "height" of the Bulgarian submarine force with four fully operational submarines. Two of them were retired immediately after the fall of the communist regime in 1989 because of lack of funds. In 2007, the general staff of the Bulgarian Navy promised that its modernization strategy will provide for purchasing two new submarines, the first of which was supposed to arrive in Varna in 2012. However, these plans have seen little development.

In July 2010, there were announcements the Bulgarian Navy will most likely acquire two second-hand destroyers from the Netherlands in 2014 but those have remained unconfirmed.

In early 2010, the senior command of the Bulgarian Navy suggested it could contribute a newly-bought second-hand frigate to the operations patrolling against Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean but such suggestions spurred vastly negative reactions from the Bulgarian government as such a mission would turn out to be very costly. In 2010, Bulgaria has been contributing one naval officer to the EU NAVFOR Somalia, EU's operation countering Somali piracy.



Astute Class costs

Peter Luff, minister for defence equipment, support and technology, has admitted the original cost for six Astute submarines has risen from £4.380bn to a projected £5.723bn.

The minister highlighted previous cost increases but insisted "the programme is now on a much firmer footing".

Boats one to three; Astute, Ambush and Artful, are set to cost a combined total of £3.480bn, 56.5 per cent over budget.

The final cost for all six submarines is still set to rise, as expected, as more spending is approved for boats five and six. Earlier this month, the National Audit Office said cuts to defence spending contributed to a £466m rise in the cost of the UK's 15 largest military equipment projects in a year, including the Astute submarines.

The watchdog said the decision to further extend the building programme for the new class of seven Astute attack submarines announced in last year's defence review was a main factor in pushing up costs. This, the watchdog said, had pushed up costs of the submarine programme by a further £200m.

In response to the cost rises, defence secretary Philip Hammond said his department was getting control of procurement costs as a result of "difficult" decisions taken in last year's defence review. Margaret Hodge, chairman of the Commons Public Accounts Committee which oversees the work of the NAO, said: "Delaying projects and reducing what they deliver are not sensible ways to invest in defence capability."

Courtesy of the Evening Mail

The U-Boats that Surrendered

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

By
Derek Waller
PART 4

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

32. December was mostly taken up with the preparations for Lisahally's part in Operation Deadlight, which began at the very end of the month. The other significant events were the sailing of the last (delayed) U-Boat to Russia, U-3515, which departed on 6 December under tow by HMS Icarus, and the arrival on 31 December of three U-Boats from Loch Ryan (U-712, U-953 and U-2348), all of which had been allocated to the UK by the TNC for trials purposes, albeit that all the planned trials had then been completed, and that the Royal Navy had no further use for these U-Boats.

33. January 1946 saw the completion of the main part of Operation Deadlight, with the sinking of 28 out of the 30 U-Boats planned for destruction being completed by 8 January and, by the end of the month, there were just 10 U-Boats remaining at Lisahally. Two of these were destined to be sunk in the final phase of Operation Deadlight, two were destined to be transferred to France in Operation Thankful, and six had been allocated to the Royal Navy for trials, but were no longer required.

34. The busy work at Lisahally over the previous eight months in connection with the surrendered German U-Boats essentially came to an end in February 1946. The two U-Boats destined for France, U-2326 and U-2518, departed from Lisahally on 6 February, and the final two Deadlight U-Boats, U-975 and U-3514, were sunk on 10 and 12

February respectively. The six remaining U-Boats, U-712, U-953, U-1108, U-1171, U-2348 and U-3017, all of which had been formally allocated to the UK, were therefore left on the moorings at Lisahally awaiting Admiralty decisions about their future.

Operation Cabal

35. The move of the 10 U-Boats that had been allocated to Russia from Lisahally to the Russian-controlled port of Libau in Latvia was a major undertaking for the Royal Naval authorities in Lisahally. It involved seven of the U-Boats which were moored at Lisahally (U-1058, U-1231, U-1305, U-2529, U-3035, U-3041 and U-3515), and three which had been held in Loch Ryan, but which were transferred to Lough Foyle on 31 October (U-1057, U-1064 and U-2353), three weeks before they were due to leave for Russia. However, owing to congestion on the moorings at Lisahally and lack of accommodation, these three U-Boats were berthed at Londonderry instead.

36. Operation Cabal, which was the code name for the move, and which was commanded by Captain P Q Roberts, Captain (Submarines) Lisahally, involved eight RN escort vessels, and each of the 10 U-Boats had a Royal Navy CO and crew. The escort vessels arrived in Lough Foyle on 18 and 19 November, and the 10 Russian naval officers who were to embark as observers, one in each U-Boat, arrived on 19 November. The original intention was that the 10 U-Boats should sail to Libau under their own power but, in the event, only five of the U-Boats were deemed to be capable of proceeding the whole way unaided, and it was decided to tow the remaining five.

37. The transfer began on 23 November when four of the U-Boats that were to be towed (by HMS Riou, HMS Zephyr, HMS Tremadoc Bay and HMS Narborough) were moved down river to Moville where they were anchored for the night before sailing the following morning.

On 24 November the five under power (escorted by HMS Garth, HMS Eglinton and HMS Zetland) sailed from Lisahally, though their departure was delayed until the afternoon by dense fog in the Lough. The tenth U-Boat was a late substitute because of a last-minute accident, and it did not sail (under tow by HMS Icarus) until 6 December.

38. The five U-Boats which sailed under their own power had a relatively trouble-free journey to Libau. However, it was a different matter for those that were under tow. The four which set out on 24 November experienced considerable bad weather en route, including Force 10 gales, and all had problems with their towing gear. Indeed, only seven of the U-Boats arrived at Libau on 4 December. The remaining three had all suffered considerable delays due to a combination of poor weather, technical defects and towing problems, with the last one (together with HMS Icarus) not arriving in Libau until 2 February 1946.

Operation Deadlight

39. The Royal Navy's Operation Deadlight was the executive action which led to the sinking of 116 German U-Boats off Northern Ireland between 27 November 1945 and 12 February 1946. Because the imminent onset of winter and its associated rough seas in the area to the north west of Loch Ryan and Lisahally would make the towing and sinking of the U-Boats a hazardous task, it was decided that the action should be initiated without delay. The formal order for Operation Deadlight, which was issued on 14 November, involved just 30 U-Boats from Lisahally. The Operation itself started on 25 November, but Phase 1 was concerned with the U-Boats from Loch Ryan. Phase 2 started on 29 December 1945 and, despite the relatively small number of U-Boats from Lisahally (only 26% of the total sunk), it was a major exercise which involved more Royal Navy and other vessels than the number of U-Boats themselves.



40. The surface fleet, which included 19 destroyers and frigates - of which three belonged to the Polish Navy and which was under the overall command of Captain St.J A Micklethwait, DSO**, RN, (Captain (D) 17th Flotilla) was moored at Moville near the mouth of Lough Foyle. The arrangements were that each day during the operation, small groups of U-Boats would be brought down river from Lisahally by skeleton German crews, who would handover each U-boat to one of the surface vessels, disembark, and then be ferried back to Lisahally. The aim was that the U-Boats should then be towed (unmanned) to a designated position 130 miles to the north west of Lough Foyle, where they would be sunk. The prime method was to be by the use of demolition charges, however if weather conditions allowed, three were to be sunk by torpedo from the submarine HMS Templar. If any of these methods of disposal failed, then the U-Boats were to be sunk by gunfire.

41. As expected, the weather was particularly bad in December 1945 and January 1946, and the planned disposal arrangements did not work on the vast majority of occasions, especially as far as the plans for sinking the U-Boats with demolition charges were concerned. There were also major problems with the towing of the unmanned U-Boats by vessels which were not suited to such activity. Comparison of the planned disposal arrangements for the 30 U-Boats from Lisahally with what actually happened shows the scale of disruption to the plans. Not a single one of the U-Boats were sunk by demolition charges, and only one was sunk by torpedo.



Of the remaining 29, three foundered under tow and 24 were sunk by gunfire before they ever reached the designated scuttling area. The remaining two were sunk by gunfire in the scuttling area, as it was far too dangerous to follow the pre-planned demolition procedure.

42. Of the U-Boats from Lisahally sunk in Operation Deadlight, 28 were sunk between 29 December 1945 and 8 January 1946, and the remaining two, U-975 and U-3514, were sunk on 10 and 12 February 1946 respectively. The 30 U-Boats concerned were:

U-244, U-278, U-294, U-363, U-516, U-541, U-668, U-764, U-802, U-825, U-861, U-874, U-875, U-883, U-901, U-930, U-975, U-1010, U-1022, U-1023, U-1109, U-1165, U-2336, U-2341, U-2351, U-2356, U-2502, U-2506, U-2511 and U-3514.

43. Finally, during the course of Operation Deadlight local newspaper reporters were invited to view the proceedings, and on 30 December Mr A O'Doherty of the Derry Journal, Mr D J Ruddock of the Derry Standard and Mr M Cannon of the Irish News boarded HMS Zealous to witness the day's events. There were however reporting restrictions in place, and the reporters were forbidden to publish any stories without first obtaining Admiralty approval.

Operation Thankful

44. Operation Thankful involved the transfer of the Type XXIII U-Boat, U-2326, and the Type XXI U-Boat, U-2518, from the Royal Navy to the French Navy in February 1946. At the end of the war, France had been keen to be allocated a number of the U-Boats that had surrendered, but though Britain had considerable sympathy with the proposal, it was vetoed by Russia. However, by the time the British share of the surrendered U-Boats was decided in late 1945, almost all the planned Royal Navy trials had been completed, and there was no further requirement for

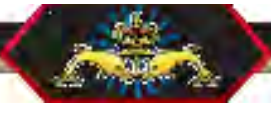
nine out of the 10 that had been allocated to the UK. The 10th (U-190) had surrendered in Canada, and had already been given to the Royal Canadian Navy.

45. The Royal Navy had conducted trials on U-2326, but these had been completed in October, after which the U-Boat had been returned to Lisahally, and U-2518 had never been used following its transfer to Lisahally from Norway. The Royal Navy therefore decided that these two U-Boats, for which they had no further use, should be handed-over to the French Navy on long-term loan.

46. Thus, almost the final episode of the story of the U-Boats at Lisahally began on 5 February 1946 when HMS Tremadoc Bay (Lt Cdr F D Cole) and HM Tug Bustler sailed from Lisahally for Molville at the mouth of Lough Foyle to await the arrival of the two U-Boats the following day. On 6 February they sailed for Cherbourg in France, with Tremadoc Bay towing U-2326 and Bustler towing U-2518. Both U-Boats were crewed by RN personnel. However, heavy weather in the Irish Sea, towing problems and defects caused a diversion into Dublin Bay on 7 February for three days. The transfer resumed on 10 February, and the group finally arrived in Cherbourg on 13 February where the two U-boats were handed over to the French Navy.

Continues with Part 5 in
January Issue






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

More Senior Moments
Good bye tension.
Hello pension.

Life not only begins at 40, it begins to show.


Be nice to your kids. They'll choose your nursing home.



New Members

Alex Hustwayte
Geoff Gardner
Denis Thompson
&
Harry Weaver

A warm welcome to you all



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Non Member
Andy Stoneman
LMEM
Submarine Service in
Valiant and Victorious

Dolphin Branch
November 2011
F N O Bartlett
Lt Commander (E)
Aged 89
Submarine Service 1946-1952
Thorough, Truncheon & Totem

Dorset Branch
December 2011
William Eades
Leading Stoker
D/SKX 77057682
Submarine Service 1948-1953
Token, Tireless, Auriga
Andrew

Australia Branch
28th November 2011
Angus Bartlett-Bragg
Able Seaman (Radar)
D/JX 86492
Aged 83
Submarine Service 1946-1948
Tradewind & Seneschal

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.



- FIVE RULES TO REMEMBER IN LIFE**
1. Money cannot buy happiness but its more comfortable to cry in a Mercedes than on a bicycle.
 2. Forgive your enemy but remember the bastards name.
 3. Help someone when they are in trouble and they will remember you when they're in trouble again.
 4. Many people are alive only because its illegal to shoot them.
 5. Alcohol does not solve any problems, but then again, neither does milk.



The Editor

Earlier this year I was informed by the Evening Mail who print and do some design work for our newsletter that the cost of doing so was becoming prohibitive at an estimated £650 per year.

After taking some advice I applied in July to the CNgroup charitable trust for funding, in September I was informed that we had been successful and a one off grant would be awarded to the submariners Association to be used in support of the production of the monthly newsletter. The sum awarded was £250.

The evening mail will continue to supply Pictures and stories as required for the newsletter. I would like to thank the Evening Mail for there support of our newsletter over the years.

In practical terms this means we can continue for the foreseeable future to publish the paper edition of the newsletter and tinker with the design and layout. The good will of some members has since July this year allowed the continued printing of a paper edition and hopefully this arrangement should continue in to next year.

The newsletter for 2012 will hopefully take on a slightly different more appealing design.

We tried with some success placing a couple of adverts in the last edition, if you wish to place an advert in the newsletter please get in touch.

I am currently looking at giving the newsletter a name "indepth" & "Up Periscope" have all been used your practical suggestions would be most welcome.

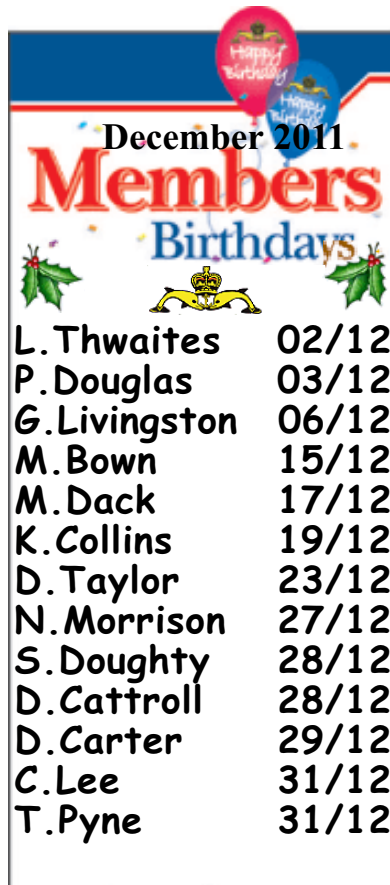
The newsletter has a new e-mail address:

BarrowSAnews@gmail.com

Please use this for sending in your items or to contact me.

Many thanks to everyone that has contributed to the news letter during 2011 and I wish all our members and readers a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

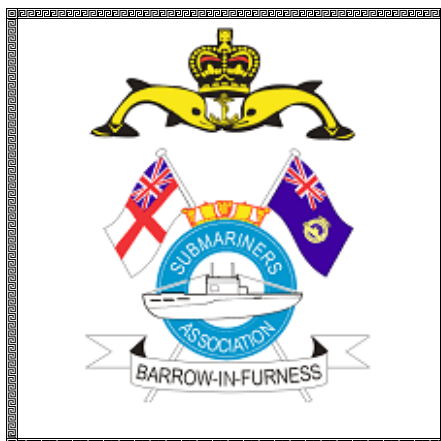
Regards
Ben Britten



December 2011 Members Birthdays	
L.Thwaites	02/12
P.Douglas	03/12
G.Livingston	06/12
M.Bown	15/12
M.Dack	17/12
K.Collins	19/12
D.Taylor	23/12
N.Morrison	27/12
S.Doughty	28/12
D.Cattroll	28/12
D.Carter	29/12
C.Lee	31/12
T.Pyne	31/12

DISCLAIMER

This Newsletter is published by the Submariners Association (Barrow in Furness) and is (c) 2011. The opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor, The Submariners Association, the MoD or the Submarine Service unless otherwise stated. The Submariners Association may not agree with the opinions expressed in this Newsletter but encourages publication as a matter of interest. Nothing printed may be construed as policy or an official announcement unless so stated. Otherwise the Association accepts no liability on any issue in this Newsletter



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:

BarrowSAnews@gmail.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 Decemberr for the Januaryr 2012 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

December

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

January 2012

Tuesday 3rd Monthly meeting
RBL 2000
Tuesday 17th Branch Committee
Meeting RBL 1930
K13 W/E 27th - 29th

www.astuteclass.com



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 Christmas theme with clues based on things you might enjoy over the festive break.

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

CLUES

1. ROAST GOOSE

2. TURNIPS

3. SPROUTS

4. CRACKERS

5. SANTA

6. PRESENTS

7. SHERRY

8. PORT

9. PLUM PUDDING

10. MINCE PIES

11. NUTS

12. PARTY HATS

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

Last month's wordsquare solution (below)

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	A	I	L	
E	I	N	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



CAKE TIME: It's not Christmas cake being cut here but the celebration commissioning day cake for the Barrow-built submarine *HMS Turbulent* on April 28 in 1984

Submariners Association

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Rear Admiral A. J. Whetstone CB.
Cdr R. Seaward.
R. Elrick Esq.

Dear Member

May I first apologise for the delay in getting this information out to you. You may have heard through the proverbial grapevine that we were going to hold the 2012 Full members Reunion/ Conference in Bristol. This was indeed the intention but the NMC at their meeting in November were not satisfied that the hotel was offering the best deal for our purposes. Continued negotiations irretrievably broke down and we were decided to look elsewhere.

I have been very fortunate to conclude a deal with the St Johns Hotel in Solihull an upmarket superb of Birmingham which is known as the centre of England so it should be acceptable to all. The date is the weekend of Friday 30 March to Sunday 1st April 2012 with the conference itself on Saturday 31st March.

The hotel is of a good quality within easy reach of the M42 (2 miles), Birmingham Airport (4 miles) and the rail network (local station 10 minutes' walk). The town centre is less than a 10 minute stroll, and there are regular buses to Birmingham City Centre. The hotel boasts a leisure suite with swimming pool for those inclined.

For more information go to their website at www.principal-hayley.com.

There is ample on site parking with the parking fee waived which is a big saving in itself.

The room rates are:

Note that **ALL** rates are per person

Frid & Sat	Dinner B&B (SHARING TWIN)	£120.00
Frid & Sat	Dinner B&B (SINGLE)	£140.00
Sat Night Only	Dinner B&B (SHARING TWIN)	£ 95.00
Sat Only Reunion	Dinner B&B (SINGLE)	£105.00
Additional Night Thursday	B&B (SHARING TWIN)	£ 35.00
Additional Night Thursday	B&B (SINGLE)	£ 60.00
Additional Night Sunday	B&B (SHARING TWIN)	£ 35.00
Additional Night Sunday	B&B (SINGLE)	£ 60.00
Non Resident Reunion Dinner		£ 35.00
Entry Only - Includes Tot		£ 3.00

Also note that the Single rooms are **very limited** and will be on a strictly first come first served.

These rates include half a bottle of wine per person at the Saturday Reunion Dinner, Port and a Tot of rum.

The bar prices are:

Worthington's £2.15 per pint

Carling	£2.15 per pint
Cider – Gaymers	£2.19 per pint
Grolsh	£2.50 per pint
Guinness	£2.90 per pint
Red & White wine 175ml	£2.30
House wine	£12.50 per bottle
House Spirits Gin, Rum or Vodka	£2.50 Branded Spirits will be at the hotel Standard Prices
Soft Drinks (post mix) – per Pint	
Coke & Lemonade	£1.10
J20	£1.50

The downside of this is that because of the delay due to the negotiation breakdown it is imperative that you complete the application and get it to me as soon as you can. Whilst applications via your secretary are welcome I am happy to accept applications from individual members, indeed due to the short timescale for me to process the applications and agree the room requirements with the hotel this would be my preferred bet. I do not accept phone applications but you may send it by email as long as your cheque is sent straight away. Don't forget to add your contact details so I can contact you if I need to.

Whilst I would prefer full payment up front, I will accept a £50 deposit for packages greater than that and I do need the full balance by the 11 February.

If you have any queries then don't hesitate to contact me.

Although this circular and application form will be sent to all those members on email I would ask all branch secretaries to get it out to your members as quickly as you can.

Yours Sincerely

D. E. Barlow
National Chairman

