

May 2012

newsletter

Submariners Association ▪ Barrow-in-Furness Branch Newsletter ▪ Issue 143



HMS SUBMARINE "B11" ENTERED THE DARDANELLES, DIVED UNDER FIVE ROWS OF MINES AND FORGED THE TURKISH BATTLESHIP "MESSUDIEH", B11 RETURNED SAFELY

BarrowSAnews@gmail.com

HMS B11



The May Word

Well, that's the AGM over for another year. It was quite painless really albeit it was touch and go for a while on whether we would fill the offices.

We haven't had a Vice Chairman for 2 or 3 years and I felt that a branch our size needed one. When required, our President John Hart has stood in and I have been very grateful for that but in his position he shouldn't need to. Thanks John for the times you have stood in when I have been unavailable.

Every branch should have a John Hart lookalike. Long tall Kenny came galloping to the rescue and as there were no other takers Ken Collins was elected unopposed as our Vice Chairman. He was baptised pretty quickly as I was unavailable for the first committee meeting of the year.

Fortunately for us Ron Hiseman has returned to Barrow to work after being away down south for a year or two. He volunteered (coerced) to take over the secretarial reins he vacated when Barrie took over. Welcome back Ron. Somehow I don't think it will take him long to get back into the swing of things.



Barrow Submariner's Association Branch Officials



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WELFARE COMMITTEE

Michael Mailey
Alan Jones

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6) Affray Memorial Trust 7) St Georges day Parade 8) General Info 9) Quiz Page



I would also like to thank the member who wishes to remain anonymous who although he didn't really want the job would have taken on the roll of secretary had we been unable to find someone else. You know who you are, thanks a lot from me and your desire to ensure the branch didn't perish without a secretary.

It gave me a lot of pleasure at the AGM to make two presentations. The first was to Ken Collins. Having presented him with his Life Membership Certificate I presented him with a Limited Edition print of the Churchill Class of Submarine in which he served, as a thank you for the hard work he put in over many years as Chairman. It was well overdue but I was happy to redress the lapse.



And so to Barrie. It was his last meeting as branch secretary and again I was very pleased to present him with a print of the inside of the DDH suitably inscribed with our thanks for a job well done.



I expressed our thanks and gratitude for all he has done for the branch, not just as secretary but the support in every field that he has given. A renowned submarine historian he has unearthed many a useful snippet of information and answered many queries that have been

thrown his way. I expect we will still see quite a bit of him until such time as he manages to find his way on the M6 and M74 and disappear up to the 'Frozen North'. Barrie; thanks for all that you have done for us and I trust you enjoy your retirement.

I apologise for the confusion at the AGM arising from the proposal relating to our widows. I think that we eventually got it resolved, but you can take it from me that we will always remember them in some way. I have already got some ideas and Jeff Thomas is chasing one of them up.

A couple of weeks ago the Courageous Association held their biennial reunion in Barrow which had been arranged by Ken Collins. My thanks go to Roger Brailsford in helping out and also to Gas Mayes ex of Ambush but now outside and working in DTO.

As I mentioned at the AGM unless we could get a few more names for the Branch Dinner Dance I would have no alternative but to cancel. We had just 42 names which is not a viable number for a dinner dance so Colin H and I met with the Lisdoonie management to discuss the situation and we took up their offer of holding a Dinner only with an enhanced 5 course menu. Having phoned everyone round to give them the option of dropping out with their money back all but 2 agreed to the dinner only. I have to say it was the best meal I have ever had at the Lisdoonie.

We used the occasion to dine out Barrie Downer and his wife Margaret out as he was going to be a guest speaker at the dance anyway. Everybody I have spoken to said they enjoyed it and reiterated my thoughts on the quality of the meal. It has given us food for thought (excuse the pun) on the potential format for future functions. I would like your reasons on why you elected not to attend this year. It is an important function

in our calendar and we need to know what the core reasons are so that they can be addressed

and resolved. It is very disheartening for the Social Sec to put so much work in to arranging an event only to find that the support he gets is to be honest pretty abysmal. Was it the cost, the venue, the menu, the timing or some other reason? I know that some regulars were away but surely not all. Unless we know it is difficult to do something about it. What I do know is that those that didn't attend are the losers as it was a good night all round plus we made about £100 with a raffle for the Anniversary fund.

Last week I held a sub committee meeting for the 50th Anniversary celebration. Along with Jan Mead and Colin Hutchinson, I welcomed on board Jeff Thomas to the committee and to make sure he was up and running with what was going on I also invited Ron Hiseman. We had a good exchange of ideas with an action grid produced to capture all the actions that need to be done to ensure that next year is really memorable. Rest assured that things are now starting to move not just on the Main Anniversary Ball in the Forum next May but other events and things that need to be done.

We do still need your support with the fund raising as my aspiration is that the Anniversary Ball should be relatively easy on all our pockets.

Talking of which we are having a fund raising social in the RBL on Friday 27 July. Songs for a Summer Evening with Voce and Special Guests "The Girls".

It promises to be another great night with the ticket price being held at £5 once again.

Well, that's all for now, see you all at the Branch meeting on Tuesday 1st.

Dave



Barrow Submarine Series: issue number 42

HMS B11



DARING MISSION: The Barrow-built *HMS B11* launched an attack on a Turkish battleship in the First World War

HMS B11 was the last boat of the Royal Navy's B-class of submarines and was launched at Barrow on February 24 in 1906.

Along with *HMS B9* and *HMS B10* the submarine was deployed to Malta in 1912.

Following the outbreak of the First World War, in September 1914, the submarine was redeployed to Tenedos join the fleet watching the entrance of the Dardanelles.

On December 13, *HMS B11*, commanded by Lieutenant Norman Douglas Holbrook, entered the Dardanelles and torpedoed the Turkish battleship *Messoudieh*.

Guards were constructed over the various projections on the submarine's hull to reduce the risk of snagging on mines.

HMS B11 then had to pass under five rows of mines, through then uncharted currents.

After *B11* hit *Messoudieh* it took eight hours for the submarine to escape.

Lt Holbrook was awarded the Victoria Cross, the first for service in a submarine, his First Lieutenant, Sydney Winn, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, and every member of the crew was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

On August 24 in 1915 the town of Gernantown in New South Wales, Australia, was renamed Holbrook in honour of the VC winner and a replica of *B11* can be seen there.

The submarine moved to Venice in October 1915 and on December 11 survived an attack by an Austrian flying boat.

The plane suffered engine failure forcing it to land.

On 17 January 1916 the submarine



TRIBUTE: A scale model of *HMS B11* at Holbrook, the Australian community named in honour of Norman Douglas Holbrook the submarine Victoria Cross hero

managed to capture the crew of an Austrian flying boat after the aircraft had suffered engine failure while returning from a bombing raid.

On 17 March it was narrowly missed by a torpedo but was unable to locate the attacker.

Later in the war *B11* was converted to a surface patrol craft through raising the deck level and removing the electric motor.

In addition the conning tower was replaced by a wheelhouse.

B11 was sold for scrap in 1919 in Italy.

STATS:

- Length: 142ft (43m)

- Beam: 13ft 6in (4.11m)
- Displacement: 280 tons surfaced and 313 tons submerged
- Height: 12ft (3.7m)
- Propulsion: petrol engine, single propeller
- Speed: 13kn (24km/h) surfaced and 8kn (15km/h) submerged
- Range: 740nm (1,370km) at 12kn (22km/h) surfaced and 50nm (93km) at 4.5kn (8.3km/h) submerged
- Compliment: 15
- Armament: pair of 18in bow torpedo tubes



Ron Hiseman Secretary



Well ladies gents, my first newsletter as your new Secretary. In case you haven't heard Barrie has resigned as Secretary following his retirement from BAE SYSTEMS. Margaret and Barrie are now planning to move back to Scotland to enjoy their retirement. I wish them the best of health and a long and happy retirement. I also thank Barrie for his sterling efforts in the role as Secretary.

Now down to the logistics of the position as your Secretary. I have received a membership list from Barrie and have put all e-mails into my system. On the 15th April I sent an e-mail to all those on the list. It didn't go too well as the file stated to many recipients. I am now trying to refine files and will try again for those not yet contacted. I will send minutes of AGM using individual e-mails, so if you have not received a copy on the last minutes please e-mail me at ron-hiseman@tiscali.co.uk and I will update my list. If you have more than one e-mail address please reply from both addresses if you wish me to use both. The more the Branch can carry out on e-mail reduces the cost to the Branch for normal mail, especially now that the Post Office are introducing large price increases for stamps.

The hand over from Barrie is now complete and all my good work to reduce the rubbish in my office has now been undone by all the Branch records the Branch has amassed over the years. I am currently working my way through them to see what we hold and the relevance of the items.

From the AGM and the Committee meeting following it became obvious that some of the Branch rules need to be revisited for relevance and the addition of Peter's proposal that the Branch remember our Widows. To that extent I will look at the Branch rules and report to the Committee in due course. If anyone has any further ideas on the Branch rules please let me know so I can incorporate them.

The HMS Courageous reunion was held in Barrow over the weekend of 13-15 April. A meet and greet was held in the RBL on the Friday night and I attended the golf and evening meal on the Saturday. As I was never on HMS Courageous Lyn and I enjoyed the company of all present and had a good night. Lyn and my thanks once again to the events organising committee, especially Ken Collins.

As part of the 50th celebrations of the Branch next year we intend to make a bid for the Submarine Flotilla Golf completion to be held in Barrow next year. If you have an interest and would like to join the organising committee please let me know.

Again my thanks to Barrie for all he has done over the years and I hope as I settle into the job these newsletter dits become easier

Ron

Social Secretary May 2012



On Saturday 21st April we held our Branch annual dinner at the Lisdoonie, due a disappointing response there was unfortunately not enough numbers to sustain a dance as well, so the Chairman and myself had a tete a tete on the way ahead and decided to ring round those who requested tickets to see if they were agreeable to just having a dinner at the Lisdoonie with an enhanced menu. I was really encouraged that not one person was against the idea, so 40 members and their guests attended and enjoyed what was a really nice evening with good food and good company. I would like to thank all of you who attended and for your support for the raffle which raised £96 on the night.

I would like to echo the Chairmans comments on providing feedback on this social event so that we can plan for better functions that you would like in the future.

Future events include a Ladies invite / Quiz for the July meeting and a Summer event with VOCE in July and of course the Ladies night dinner at the Abbey House hotel on November 9th.

Colin Hutchinson
Social Secretary

Scottish Branch Submariners Association

On 5th & 6th May 2012, Services for the loss of the Vandal at Loch Ranza and Untamed at Dunoon cemetery. In 1992 the Branch discovered that two submarines, 'VANDAL' and 'UNTAMED' had been lost in the Clyde with all hands some fifty years before in 1943 within a couple of months of each other. VANDAL was lost in February 1943 and UNTAMED at the end of May of the same year. Both were newly built boats undergoing their initial sea trials and both lost as a result of accidents rather than enemy action.

The crew of UNTAMED is buried in Dunoon cemetery with the exception of the Chief Engine Room Artificer who is buried in Campbeltown. UNTAMED was subsequently recovered, refitted, renamed VITALITY and was used as a training boat for the remainder of the war. VANDAL was never recovered, and in fact it was the Scottish Branch that initiated its eventual true location:

For further information please visit [Scottish Branch Submariners Association](http://www.scottishbranchsubmarinersassociation.org.uk) or visit [Submariners Association Website](http://www.submarinersassociation.org.uk)

If you have any questions related to the above, please contact: Jim Rea Esq, Hon Secretary, Scottish Branch, Submariners Association





Indian Nuclear Submarines



India has formally commissioned a nuclear-powered submarine into its navy, rejoining the elite club of nations with such a weapon.

The \$1bn (£630m) Russian-built vessel is being leased by the Indian navy for the next 10 years. It was handed over to India in eastern Russia in January.

India previously operated a Soviet nuclear submarine until 1991.

It now rejoins China, Russia, the US, the UK and France as an operator of nuclear submarines.

India is also developing its own nuclear-powered submarine which is expected to be ready by the end of this year.

'Big boost for navy'

The 8,140-tonne Akula II-class submarine, built by the Russians as the K-152 Nerpa, has been renamed by India as the INS Chakra II.

The submarine was formally commissioned into the navy by the country's Defence Minister, AK Antony, at a ceremony in Vishakhapatnam, on India's east coast off the Bay of Bengal.

"This will be a big boost for the Indian navy," Mr Antony told reporters after the ceremony.

"The INS Chakra will ensure security and sovereignty of the country," he said.

It has a crew of 80 under the command of Captain P Ashokan.

The submarine set sail from the Russian port of Vladivostok at the end of February.

In keeping with international non-proliferation treaties, the submarine will not be equipped with nuclear weapons. It is expected to only carry cruise missiles. India had previously leased a nuclear submarine from the Russians in the late 1980s which was used to train its naval personnel.

The INS Chakra will, however, be operational and is expected to give the Indian navy an added advantage and is capable of remaining submerged for about three months at a time.

It was due to be handed over to Delhi in 2009 but the transfer was delayed because of problems during testing.

In November 2008, at least 20 people died in an accident on the Nerpa when a fire extinguishing system was activated by mistake. India is also building an indigenous nuclear submarine, the Arihant, which is expected to join the navy some time later this year.

Russia is also expected to help India train the Arihant's crew.

India and Russia are long-time allies and Russia supplies 70% of India's military hardware. The submarine will be deployed off the eastern Indian coast... towards China"

join us at the Meet and Greet for HMS Courageous Association on Friday the 13th April. It was a fantastic function as was the whole weekend of celebrations, especially the Dinner at the Lisdoonie Hotel who done us proud.

I would also, on behalf of the Association, like to thank Bob Palmer and John Smith and the Royal British Legion for their hospitality in affording us the use of the Concert room on the Friday (Meet and Greet), Saturday (AGM) and Sunday for the farewell drinks.

I was asked by our President Captain David Wixon and the committee, to pass on the Associations best regards to the RBL and Branch for all that was done over the reunion weekend.

The Branch annual dinner at the Lisdoonie last weekend was great, the food was second to none and the Trout, according to Fiona Barlow, was delicious (ask Jan Mead). Although there was no group or dancing it was a terrific function and a grand farewell to our guest speaker and outgoing Secretary Barrie Downer.

May I take this opportunity to personally thank Barrie for all that he has done over the years for the Branch, not only as secretary, but a whole host of functions that he has performed on behalf of the Association. His contribution to the history of the Submarine service will be sadly missed in the Newsletter and I hope that he will continue submitting dits in the future; after all he is only an email away.

Good luck with your retirement Barrie, you will be sadly missed.

Yours Aye

Ken Collins
Vice Chairman

The Vice Chairman



I would like to thank the Branch membership for the presentation of the Framed Churchill class print at the AGM last month, it was greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank the Branch members who made the effort to



HMS Affray memorial unveiled in Alderney 16th April

Affray Submarine Memorial Trust

The Trust has been established with the objective of providing a permanent public memorial to honour the 75 Royal Navy submariners and Royal Marines that were lost in the sinking of HM Submarine "Affray" which occurred off Alderney, Channel Islands on 16th April 1951. The Trust is also responsible for the installation, maintenance and public liability insurance for the memorial, together with the annual provision in perpetuity of poppy wreaths to be placed at the memorial on the anniversary of the sinking and on Remembrance Sunday. Guernsey registered charity number CH389. Member of the Association of Guernsey Charities.

Donations are welcome and may be made in the name of the "Affray Submarine Memorial Trust" by cheque and posted to: Alderney Trustees Limited, The Old Presbytery, Les Rocquettes, Alderney, Channel Islands, GY9 3TF or alternately from any branch of the NatWest bank in the UK and through internet banking by sending to: NatWest

Bank, account number 74320025, sort code 60-09-20

Branch address: Victoria Street, St Anne, Alderney, Channel Islands, GY9 3AG

There is currently a shortfall of about £12,000 that must be found as soon as possible if we are to achieve our goal. A grant application has been applied for that will hopefully provide £6,000, but if successful it will not be available until the end of May. Many people have given generously in the past 12 months, but I earnestly request that those who have not yet done so, should please consider making a contribution, if you are able. The trust is not empowered to take out bank loans or personal guarantees, but any offers of short-term financial assistance will be very welcome.

Submarine or boat submerged in Lough Foyle

Environment Minister Alex Attwood has said what appears to be a submarine or boat has been identified submerged in Lough Foyle.

Mr Attwood said he had viewed sonar images of the vessel. "I have asked that urgent work is undertaken to determine how and when the submarine or boat

came to rest in this part of the lough. "It is unusual that there appears to be no record of the circumstances behind this situation," he said. "I have also asked that all agencies continue to work with DOE and the harbour commissioner to create certainty about the identity of and the reason why the submarine/boat is in the current location." He said it was crucial that no diving should occur in the vicinity of the vessel. "There may be unexploded ordnance which means there are potential risks. This may also be a war grave," he said.



Lough Foyle



Captain Robin Heath's funeral will be at the St Thomas Beckett Church in Box, Wiltshire, at 1230 on Thursday 3rd May 2012.

Family flowers only. Donations welcome to the RNLI.

The Well Turned Phrase

He who hesitates is probably right.

If all is not lost where is it?

I Have the body of a god...Buddha.





St George's Day Parade

Six Members of the Barrow Branch took part in the Annual St George's Day Parade on Sunday 22nd April 2012. These were Ginge Cundell with the Branch Standard, Brian Downie, Bob Faragher, Barrie Downer, John Smith in the main body of the Parade and Bob Pointer (who marched with the Mayors Party).

There were 15 Standards on Parade and the Standard Bearers were presented with Roses by the Mayor outside the Town Hall.

The Parade stepped off at 1300 and marched to St Georges Church for the Service conducted by the Rev. Linda Cronin. The Parade was led by the Barrow Pipe Band playing slow for the benefit of the marchers but leading to a large number of 'Change Steps' on the way.

After the Service the Parade reformed and marched back to town and halted near the Ambulance Station and was Fallen Out. The Members then made their way to the Engineers for a well earned Pint (or two) and Pie & Peas. The Standard Bearers were each presented with a Commemorative Salver to mark their participation in the Parade.

Denis Horan then provided the entertainment (he also provided the entertainment at last years Ladies Night Dinner Dance at the Abbey House Hotel). The usual raffle then took place with a large number of prizes but, needless to say, no one from the Barrow Branch won!

Overall the Parade seemed to be a bit smaller this year than in previous years but thanks are due to all Branch Members who participated.

There was a plan to continue the Social events in the Steelworks after the Engineers but I don't know if any of our Members lasted that long!

Barrie Downer



We are lucky to have an enthusiastic and loyal support base in the submarine community. Amongst the various different organisations we can count the Submariners Association, Friends of the RN Submarine Museum, Submarine Officers Association, and the members of the City and Serving community.

We all drive toward the same goal to ensure that the story of the Royal Navy Submarine Service is properly told and that in turn we educate future generations ensuring that the 5300 submariners who have given their lives are not forgotten. The Alliance Appeal has demonstrated our passion for the cause; donations given to the Alliance Appeal by fellow members have been incredibly generous and gratefully received. As the Alliance Appeal reaches a mature stage we have an opportunity to consolidate our support base and build our submarine community for the future.

The Royal Navy Submarine Museum is the focal point of the Submarine Community serving submariners, veterans, families of submariners and anyone who supports the work of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum.

We now have a LIVE website which we hope will help to cement the foundations of the submarine community. The link is <http://39753.bbnc.bbcust.com>

We hope that you will join us online. From here you will be able to look at the events that are organised by the Museum and others.

You will be able to book events, hold tickets and keep track of how much you have donated. You can even try and find other submariners a sort of Submariners Reunited. Of course, the more people that sign up, the more effective the website will be. It also provides

you with a choice of what you wish to hear about events, exhibitions, news from other organisations etc. The website is secure and you can select the information that you wish others to see.

If you would like further information, please login as above or contact Allison Dufosse or Rosie Munns on 02392510354 or email supportus@submarine-museum.co.uk.



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Non Member
03 April 2012
LMA Keith Burns.
Submarine service
Churchill and Superb

Non Member
April 2012
Sidney Harrison.
Submarine service
Opposum, Onyx, Warspite
and Conqueror (Falklands)

Merseyside Branch
April 2012
CERA Thomas (Andy)
Anderson.
Submarine service
Spark, Shakespeare & Stygian

Beds and Herts Branch
April 2012
L/S RP2 John Merrett.
Submarine service
Tally-Ho, Thorough, Tiptoe

Bath Branch
Captain Robin JP Heath.
18 April 2012
Submarine service
Auriga, Aurochs, Scorchers,
Selene, Totem, Alderney,
Seascout, Alcide, Acheron,
Renown and Skipjack.

Gosport Branch
April 2012
R.T(Ralph) Nunn
Aged 89
WW11 Service in 1945 (Safari)

*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 with-
out 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 their memories
alive.*



Keswick to Barrow

If anyone can help out stewarding for the Keswick to Barrow walk on Saturday 12th May then please contact John Hart.

We usually do one 2 hour stint each but that is depending on the number of volunteers we get. Don't forget the Branch usually get a donation from the K2B walk to help with our charitable work so it's only right and proper that we help them out in return.

Letters

To the welfare committee and members of the Submariners Association. Thankyou for the card and good wishes. I would like to say a big thankyou to Richard & Clarice for their kindness.

I am now on the road to recovery , it will be a long slow job but I will get there.

Regards to all

Joan Cole.

Ian Edmondson

Although not a Branch Member or Submariner, Submarine Heritage Centre volunteer Ian Edmondson died last week. funeral details are St Mary's Dalton on Thursday 3rd May at 1200. Ian did a lot of good work with regard to HMS ONYX and made a very big contribution to the paintings collection and to the Big Book - Dive! Dive! Dive! Barrow Built Submarines - the Best!

Christine Breeze

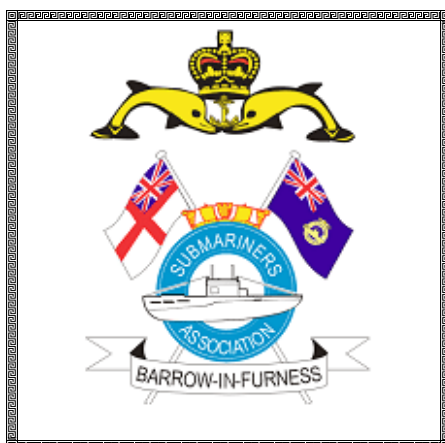
Also it is my sad duty to report to the Branch that we lost one of our widows on Friday 28/4/12. Christine Breeze passed away and her funeral will be on Friday 4th May at 1430 at Thorncliffe Crematorium

www.astuteclass.com

May 2012	
Members Birthdays	
T.Fell	04/05
D.Smith	06/05
D.Cooper	07/05
D.Barlow	09/05
A.Evans	09/05
D.Wade	11/05
N.Hildrew	12/05
K.Brumby	17/05
P.Winsland	19/05
C.Madin	21/05
T.Spurling	22/05
C.Chittenden	25/05
I.Walsh	25/05
R.Britten	31/05
N.Lowden	31/05

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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:

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 May for the June 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 2012

May

Tue 1st Monthly Meeting
2000 RBL
Tue 15th Branch Committee meeting 1930 RBL
w/e 26th Magennis memorial dinner
Belfast NI Branch

June

Tue 5th Monthly Meeting
2000 RBL
Tue 19th Branch Committee Meeting 1930 RBL





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 is based on recent First Sea Lords. See if you can find all 12.

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

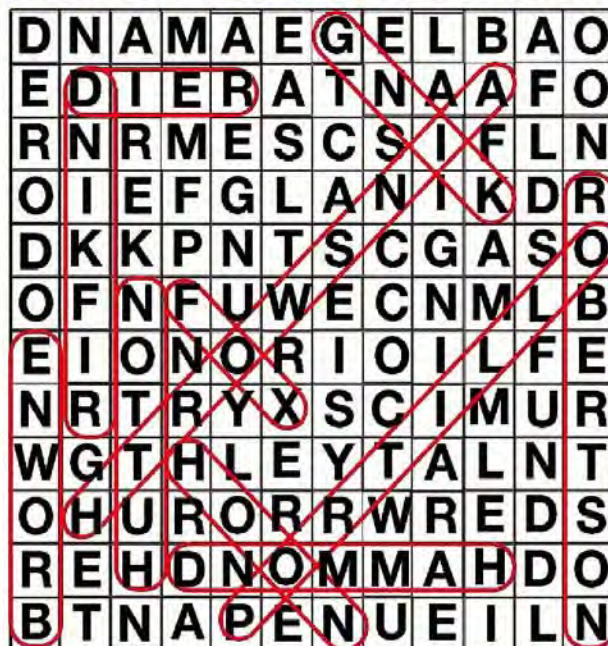
CLUES

1. BAND
2. ESSENHIGH
3. BOYCE
4. SLATER
5. OSWALD
6. STAVELEY

7. LEACH
8. LEWIN
9. POLLOCK
10. MOUNTBATTEN
11. FISHER
12. JELlicoe



Last month's wordsquare solution (below)



CLUES: Lord Mountbatten of Burma is one of the 12 First Sea Lords whose names can be found somewhere on the wordsquare. See if you can find them all.