

50th Anniversary • 1963 - 2013



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anewsletter

Submariners Association • Barrow-in- Furness Branch Newsletter • Issue 152 • February 2013





The February Word

What a great turn out we had to first foot the Morecambe Bay branch.

Spider Webb our new Social Sec did a great job in putting it all together. I think we had 18 on the coach. We were heartily welcomed by our good friends in

Morecambe. The rum flowed well and we finished off with sausage rolls and of course a few pints in good convivial company. It seems to make more sense to visit them for their February meeting as bad weather put paid to the past couple of years. A BZ to Spider on a well organised trip.

Barrow Submariner's Association Branch Officials

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WEB MASTER Ron Hiseman 01229 828664 WELFARE COMMITTEE
Michael Mailey

Alan Jones

LAY CHAPLAIN Alan Jones 01229 463150 Spider advised the committee he has got some more ideas so I hope you support him in his endeavours to give us a good social time this year.

Since the last newsletter went out I have received thank you cards and letters from our widows who had received a Christmas hamper. One of the widows even sent us a bottle of rum for our February meeting. Thank you very much Mary. Ben has included one of the letters in this issue but that does not detract from all the others. Thank you ladies. We are now a month into our 50th anniversary year albeit the actual date is May. The planning is going well with the Commemorative Dinner Dance such that I can give you some concrete information. Jan has negotiated a great deal with the forum to the extent that we have finalised the ticket price and most of the planning is in place.

The Dinner Dance will be held in The Forum on Saturday 18th May at 1830 for 1930. It will be a formal function so all you ladies can start getting your ball gowns out and hair appointments made. The cost will be £30 per head which is heavily subsidised due to the success of the fund raising we did last year thanks mainly to Jan Mead. On arrival you will meet a guard of honour from the Sea Cadets, take a pre-dinner drink before taking your place for dinner. This will include a 3 course meal with coffee and mints to follow and port for the toasts. You will enjoy a half bottle of wine each with your meal. During dinner you will be entertained by a musical trio from Casterton School near Kirkby Lonsdale and later dancing to a live band 'Trickle Charge'. Admiral the Lord Boyce will be our principle guest with the Mayor and the National Chairman also attending. I am still awaiting formal confirmation from Rear Admiral **Submarines Ian Corder.**

On the same day a memorial will be unveiled in Ramsden Square to mark the 100 years of the Australian Submarine Service and of course our branches 50th year. It also remembers those who lost their lives in AE1 and AE2 two Australian submarines built here in Barrow. It may well be that some of those who are coming to Barrow for that unveiling may wish to attend our commemorative ball so if I were you I would make an early decision on whether you want to attend and get your tickets from Jan Mead. He is hoping to have the tickets available in time for the March meeting.

There will also be a Memorial Service which our very own Alan Jones is organising and will officiate at. It is hoped to be the day after the ball subject to the preferred church being available. Alan will advise us as soon as he has it arranged.

I will be away on holiday for the March meeting and Kenny will stand in for me. I offer my apologies now.

That's all for this month.

Ron Hiseman Secratary

February all ready, hardly seem to have gotten over Christmas yet. My apologies again but Ken will be Secretary for the Feb meeting as I will be in Newcastle on a ship refit. It's just like being back in the mob. Various events are now looming, the most important being our 50th Anniversary Dinner and our An-

being our 50th Anniversary Dinner and our Anniversary meeting. The Committee addressed both of these recently and full details will be given at the Feb meeting.

The Branch will have first-footed our neighbours Morecambe and Alex will report at the next meeting.

The submarine golf has been finalised and the website is now upon ad running at www.submarine-golf.co.uk and the committee is working towards putting on a great day. If you wish to help please let me know, if you wish to play please apply using form on web site.

On the day of the 50th Anniversary Dinner there will be an unveiling of an AE1 & AE2 memorial, it hoped that there will be a good turn out by the Branch to support this.

Any items for the AGM must be with me prior to the March meeting so it can be discussed by the Branch Committee.

Regards

Ron



The Treasurer

I urgently ask members to pay their subs if not already done so and also to check their Standing Orders are paying £12.50 per year (the current Full Member rate).

Many are still paying £10.00 the previous rate before NMC affiliation went up from £5.00 to £7.50 yearly.

Subs for those who have paid them are forwarded to NMC on 20th February so time is short.

Mick Mailey



Barrow Submarine Series: issue number 45



LEAVING TOWN: The Barrow-built HMS Trenchant is waved off in February 1989 following commissioning

THE nuclear-powered fleet submarine *HMS Trenchant* is a part of the Trafalgar-class, which is based at Devonport.

She is the third vessel and the second submarine of the Royal Navy to be named for the characteristic of vigour and incisiveness.

The submarine was ordered in March 1983 and laid down by Vickers at Barrow in October 1985.

Trenchant was launched on November 3 in 1986 in the presence of Vice-Admiral Sir Arthur Hezlet.

He had commanded the Second World War T-class submarine *Trenchant*.

The submarine was commissioned into the Royal Navy on January 14 in 1989.

During the ceremony, youngest crewman Mark Meredith cut a cake with Annie Cust, wife of *Trenchant's* commanding officer Cdr David Cust.

The submarine has had an incidentpacked and interesting career.

On November 22 in 1990, the nets of the fishing vessel *Antares* were snagged by *Trenchant* in the Bute Sound in Scotland during a Perisher Submarine Command Course.

Antares was pulled under with the loss of all four members of the crew.

In July 1997, the submarine ran aground while approaching Fremantle, in Western Australia.

The submarine remained at a depth of 200m (660ft) and grounded when



BEST SHINE: CPO Kevin Webb was chief stoker on the Barrow-built HMS Trenchant in 1989

making contact with the continental shelf. *Trenchant* was able to free herself, and an inspection by divers reported no significant damage.

Trenchant tested the non-hullpenetrating optronic mast in 1998.

She also trialled a camouflage paint scheme comprising jagged shapes of

various colours, including pale blue. On 21 June 2007, the submarine

became the first Royal Navy vessel to fire the new Block IV Tomahawk cruise missile in a live-firing trial in the Gulf of Mexico off the United States coast.

In late 2009, *Trenchant* entered the Devonport submarine refit complex to undertake a two-year refit and upgrade programme.

Following this, the submarine underwent a rededication service on June 6 in 2011.

STATS:

Displacement: 4,800 tonnes, surfaced, 5,300 tonnes, dived

Length: 85.4m (280ft) Beam: 9.8m (32ft) Draught: 9.5m (31ft)

Installed power: 15,000shp (11MW)

Propulsion: Rolls Royce PWR1 nuclear reactor with a pair of GEC steam turbines, WH Allen turbo generators and Paxman diesel alternators

Speed: 32 knots (59km/h) dived Range: Unlimited, except by food supplies and maintenance requirements.

Complement: 130

Armament: five 21-inch (533mm) torpedo tubes with stowage for up to 30 weapons; Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles and Spearfish wire-guided heavyweight torpedoes





This article is taken after a perusal of the first minute book. In some areas it is quite detailed in others not so. Depended on the secretary at the time I suppose.

It all started in May 1963 when 15 submariners got together to form a branch. The first meeting took place on May 14th at the Bay Horse Pub at Hawcoat. It is not the current one but was sited diagonally across the road in what is now a At that first meeting hairdressing salon. J. Jackson was elected as the Chairman and J Ogden was elected as the Secretary/ Treasurer. They collected 2/6 (12.5p) per head to get the branch going. The National Reunion that year cost 7/6 (37p). Wonder what that is in today's money?). At that meeting was Peter Lorking who still lives in Holbeck and Bob Moody whose widow Dorothy is on our regular contact list. In fact I got a lovely letter from Dorothy saying she can still remember that first night when Bob was pleased to be there. Peter was just a young 29 year old at that time. Doesn't time fly Peter?

At the second meeting it was decided to make the annual subscription 5/- (25p). All serving Officers and Crews of the building boats were invited to become Honorary Members of the branch during their stay in Barrow. Also at that meeting it was decided to invite Peter D Scott Maxwell DSC to be the first President which he accepted.

Bill Sadlier the National Secretary of the Submarine Old Comrades' Association (SOCA) visited the branch at their third meeting in July 1963. He gave a lengthy talk on SOCA with the result that the branch voted unanimously to formally join SOCA.

Various social events were organised predominantly with the building submarine crews, for example a darts match was arranged with the crew of Valiant

In May 1964 the Branch held its first Anniversary Dinner Dance. It was held in the Duke of Edinburgh, the meal costing 15/6 (77p). The branch charged £1 to cover the entertainment (£4-10-0) and guests.

In October of that year Peter Scott Maxwell resigned as the President and was made an Honorary Vice President. Captain L H Ingram was voted in as the President. It was also decided that every third meeting should be a social. To accommodate this, the AGM was brought forward

to April so that the May meeting could be a social. Our AGMs are still held at the April meeting but I note that the social didn't last long due to poor attendance now where I have a heard that before? It seems that at many of the meetings there was no business according to the minutes so I guess it ended up as a 'drink-ex'

In 1967 the Bay Horse moved to its present premises across the road and the branch moved across the road with it. At the first meeting in the 'new' Bay Horse Inn they didn't like the prevalent attitude so set about looking for a new meeting place. In that year alone they met at the Knights of St Columbus club, the Theatre Bar and finished up at the Harbour Bar in September 1967 where they stayed for some years. At the same time there was continuous discussion on the meeting dates and reading between the lines I think they were trying to satisfy the shift working members but it all settled down to the first Tuesday as it is now.

It was also at the AGM in April 1967 that there was a change in the branch management. T. Hill was voted in as Chairman. The following year saw W Malkin voted in as secretary.

The minutes for the next couple of years or so are a bit sparse, not sure if was just not a lot going on or a different secretary having a different method of doing things. One issue that did cause a huge minute was the discussion and the actions in trying to arrange a bus to go to the National Reunion. Getting quotes, getting agreement from branch members or not as it went on. At the end of this extended 3 month discussion it was decided not to go by bus.

All this time the branch was still enjoying socials with the building boats, darts evenings, attending commissioning ceremonies. At least two of our current regulars joined the branch during this period, Mike Kirk in 1970 and Hugh Short in 1972. At the AGM in 1972 T Hill was re-elected as Chairman with P Weekes taking over as secretary due to W. Malkin retiring.

By the end of the first decade the branch had settled into a good routine, meeting monthly, regular socials and get togethers some with the building boats and with other branches, were regular attendees at the national reunions, supporting the other national events, remembrance day parades, annual dinner dances etc.

Next month we will continue the branch history through the next decade



Alex Webb Social Secretary

Hi Shipmates,

My first month as social secretary has flown by, and to say it has been a learning curve is probably putting it mildly.

By the time you read this we will have been to the 'First Footing' in Morecambe; with a greater than anticipated turnout. I will report next month on the outcome!!!

A lot of social things occurring this year, not least the 50th Anniversary celebrations I can't wait.

Important dates for your diary are:

Tue 14th May Anniversary Meeting. Will be a special meeting, starting earlier than usual and finishing with the raffle and a quiz (max of one hour), interrupted by pie and peas at half time. A prize will be given for the winning team - details of the quiz will be promulgated at the April 's AGM (no not the answers).

Sat 18th May Of course is the anniversary dinner dance at the Forum, this will be briefed in full by Jan Mead in due course.

Sat 20th July To continue our anniversary celebrations; A Day Out at Cartmel Races.

Sat 10th Aug BBQ, Music & lots of fun; get those Barbie Shirts out of the loft, pressed and ready.

Fri 9th Nov Ladies Night formal black tie

Sat 7th Dec Annual Christmas Party.

Those are the confirmed dates, however, it is anticipated that during the course of the year we will have a Horse Racing Night at the Legion, send our ladies off to Bury market for a day of shopping,go to Blackpool for a night out, plus the odd quiz night.

Things missing from this years calendar are: the Army VS. Navy at Twickenham, Valentine's Night, St George/Patrick/Andrew/David Day, Trafalgar/Pickle Night; it is my intention to put these up for discussion for 2014.

It don't get any better than this. Lets have a party!!!!

Alex Webb Social Secretary General Dynamics Receives \$13 Million Navy Award For Common Missile Compartment Development.

GROTON, Conn., Jan. 18, 2013

The U.S. Navy has awarded General Dynamics Electric Boat a \$12.8 million contract modification for the continued development of the Common Missile Compartment for the U.S. Ohio Replacement Program and the United Kingdom's Successor ballistic-missile submarine. Electric Boat is a wholly owned subsidiary of General Dynamics (NYSE:GD).

Under the modification, Electric Boat will procure prototype material and equipment to be used in the production of the Common Missile Compartment.

The award modifies a \$76 million contract announced in December 2008 for engineering, technical services, concept studies and design of a Common Missile Compartment for the next-generation ballistic missile submarines being developed for the U.S. Navy and the Royal Navy. This modification brings the total amount awarded under the contract to more than \$770 million.

This work will engage Electric Boat's engineering and design organization, which comprises more than 4,000 employees. Possessing proven technical capabilities, these employees work on all facets of the submarine life cycle from concept formulation and design through construction, maintenance and modernization, and eventually to inactivation and disposal.

More information about General Dynamics is available at www.generaldynamics.com

The Editor

If you are interested in whats going on in the RN on a daily basis and have access to the internet and the social networking site TWITTER you can keep up to date and view the latest pictures on a number of topics including, Ambush, Astute, Current Perishers course, QE Carrier and more on the following:

The Navy Campaign Navyoutlook RNSubs (Barrow Submariners)

If you have anything for publication in the newsletter please get in touch.

Regards Ben



HMS AMBUSH

The White Ensign now billows over two Astute class submarines after the second boat, HMS Ambush, was officially handed over to the Royal Navy following successful trials.

Builders BAE Systems formally transferred the £1bn hunter-killer one of seven successors to the long-serving Trafalgar class to the Silent Service in Ambush's home port of Faslane.

ON A bitterly cold, grey winter's day on the Clyde, an occasion to fill the heart of submariners with warmth metaphorically speaking. Wearing the trademark woollen white pullover of his Service, AB George Sherwin raises the White Ensign for the first time on his £1bn nuclear submarine.



The second of the Silent Service's new hunter-killer submarines is now officially in Royal Navy hands after being formally transferred to its charge by builders BAE Systems in her home base of Faslane. Saluting as the RN's standard was hoisted for the first time, Ambush's Commanding Officer Cdr Peter Green said: "It is a proud day for all of us. To see the boat flying the flag of the Royal Navy is fantastic and shows just has far we have come in such a short space of time."



As for the man doing the hoisting, sonar specialist George said: "It was fantastic to see her become part of the Fleet. We've all worked really hard to get to this point and to be part of the handover has been memorable."

The handover followed a signing ceremony onboard the hunter-killer as Tony Wilcox, head of acceptance for BAE Systems, joined Cdr Green in signing the 'certificate of acceptance'.

It means Ambush which was launched at Barrow at the end of 2010 and arrived on the Clyde in September, has completed her contractor sea trials.

When she left Cumbria, Ambush was flying the defaced Blue Ensign to mark her out as a vessel undergoing sea trials. Those trials tested the boat's systems to their limits, including taking the boat to her deep diving depth to ensure that she is safe.

HMS Ambush Silhoetted ina Scottish Sun Set





Submarine Did not sink trawler



FRENCH experts have finally admitted that a Devonport-based nuclear submarine could not have been responsible for sinking a Breton trawler nine years ago.

Five fishermen died in the Bugaled Breizh tragedy off the Lizard in Cornwall in 2004.

Now French authorities have finally ruled out the claim that HMS Turbulent was to blame. An expert report has dismissed a theory that Turbulent could have been caught up in the trawler's cables and dragged it down.

But the fate of the trawler remains a mystery after experts also said there was no proof that any other submarine might have been involved.

A lawyer for French families of the victims had called for Turbulent's captain, Commander Andy Coles, to be investigated for manslaughter, in spite of assurances by the Ministry of Defence that the submarine was docked at Plymouth at the time. Cdr Coles has repeatedly denied that his submarine was responsible for snagging the Bugaled's trawl cables.

A lawyer for the families had accused him and the Royal Navy of lying. It was claimed that one mystery witness heard "confession" by Cdr Coles, and two others had heard a radio message from Turbulent saying had suffered damage following a collision at the time the accident and returning to port.

Now a report by a submarine specialist, handed to judges investigating the accident, has confirmed that HMS Turbulent was nowhere near the Bugaled Breizh on January 15, 2004. Other submarines from Nato countries were taking part in war games in the area where the trawler was sunk. But a separate report commissioned by the judges casts doubt on the theory that the Bugaled fell victim to a submarine at all.

The experts said that traces of titanium found on salvaged cables did not suggest a submarine was involved. The metal oxide is widely used as protective coating for hulls of fishing vessels.

A Royal Navy spokesman said last night: "This bears out what the Navy has said all along. We hope the mystery is cleared up."

The Well Turned Phrase

Artificial intelligence usually beats real stupidity.

Egotist: Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

Beauty Parlor: a place where women curl up and dye.

Dust: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

Skeleton: A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Dolphin Branch
16th January 2013
John Turner
Aged 90
Submarine Service in
Tantalus, Alderney
Trenchant, Talent, Tabard
Totem

Liverpool Branch 30th December 2012 George McNabb Leading Stoker C/SKX 804949 Aged 85 Submarine Service in Aurochs

Norfolk Branch
8th January 2013
Francis Bridges
AB UC
Submarine Service in
Alcide, Taciturn, Anchorite

Dolphin Branch 18th December 2012 P.S. Davies LT CDR Submarine Service in Alliance & Truculent

Dolphin Branch 16th January 2013 Joe Wotton Submarine Service in Porpoise, Tribune, Tempest Tally-HO & Tantivity

None Member
5th January 2013
John Christopher
Cdr RANR
Aged 73
Submarine Service in
Taciturn

Australia Branch 14th January 2013 Dick Hawthorne Chef Submarine Service in Otway

Medway Branch 17th January 2013 Steve Diamond Aged 90 Submarine Service in P612, Taku, Partain Rorqual

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.



Letters

To The Chairman

Dear Sirs

Once again, I must thank you and your members for the very nice and acceptable hamper that I recieved from the Branch just before Christmas.

It was nice to be remembered at a time like this, and very much appreciated.

Yours Sincerely

Joyce Tull

First & Last

The First Submarine victim

In 1864 the Confederate submarine Hunley set out from Charleston attack to blockading Union ships. The Union corvette Housatonic was chosen as her target. Housatonic was hit with a spar torpedo and her magazine blew up. Thus Hunley became the first submarine in history to sink an enemy ship.

The First Torpedo Firing

In 1877 a surface ship, HMS Shah, fired the first torpedo ever fired in action. The target was the Peruvian rebel ship Huascar, which travelling at 11 knots, promptly outran the torpedo, which was only travelling at 9 knots

The Last

HMs/m Porpoise the last British submarine to be sunk in WW2.

HMs/m Saracen the last British submarine sank by the Italians.

HMs/m Sickle the last British submarine to be sunk in the Mediterranean.

HMs/m Trump and HMs/m Tiptoe took part in the last submarine torpedo attack of the Second World War





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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 February for the March 2013 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 2013

February

Tuesday 5th Branch Monthly Meeting RBL2000

Committee Meetings on an as Required basis



Do You Remember

Mealtimes at PD Subsistance Pirate Rig



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 underwater mountain ridges. 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. CHILE
- 2. ADEN
- 3. EXPLORER
- 4. GORDA
- 5. COCOS
- 6. GAKKEL

- 7. CALSBERG
- 8. KNIPOVICH
- 9. MOHNS
- 10. REYKJANES
- 11. EAST SCOTIA
- 12. JUAN DE FUCA



Last month's wordsquare solution (below)





TOUGH ENCOUNTER: This shows the USA submarine USS San Francisco which collided with an undersea mountain 364 nautical miles off Guam at a depth of 525ft. See if you can find the 12 names of underwater mountain ridges hidden in the wordsquare