

# newsletter

Submariners Association ■ Barrow-in-Furness Branch Newsletter ■ Issue 156 ■ June 2013



Barrow Submariners on the 50th Anniversary of their first meeting on the 14th of May



## The June Word



My first thoughts when penning this newsletter foreword were first and

foremost losing two of our long standing members Dave Jenkins and Dave Dunford both during our 50th Anniversary week. I was impressed with the

large turnout at Dave Jenkins funeral but I couldn't personally get to Dave Dunford's funeral as I was bringing my granddaughter home for her half term.

My thoughts go to their families at this time. Apart from those sobering thoughts, wow, what an exciting month May turned out to be.

## Barrow Submariner's Association Branch Officials

### HON PRESIDENT

John V. Hart  
01229 821831

### CHAIRMAN

Dave Barlow  
01229 831196

### TREASURER

Mick Mailey  
01229 821290

### SOCIAL TEAM

Alex Webb  
01229 839551

### STANDARD BEARERS

Pedlar Palmer  
Ginge Cundall

### WELFARE COMMITTEE

Michael Mailey  
Alan Jones

### VICE CHAIRMAN

Ken Collins  
01229 823454

### SECRETARY

Ron Hiseman  
01229 828664

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Richard Britten  
01229 820265

### Jeff Thomas

01229 464493

### WEB MASTER

Ron Hiseman  
01229 828664

### LAY CHAPLAIN

Alan Jones  
01229 463150



It was great to see so many members turn out for our 50th Anniversary meeting and with many of our wives and friends coming along too. I actually saw Pedlars face break into a smile when he saw the Legions tills clinking away. It was also an honour to have Admiral Sir James along to help us celebrate and this is an extract from his thank you letter. *"Dear Dave, I thoroughly enjoyed the 50th Anniversary Barrow Branch meeting and meeting Mayor Colin Thomson. It is so good to see a thriving branch when so many are failing for lack of members. Please pass on my thanks to all your members. I do hope the weekend goes well. I will be thinking of you. With Best Wishes, James"*

Having our new Mayor and Mayoress Colin and Brenda Thomson attend was also a bit special as it was Colin's first engagement as the new Mayor of Barrow. He spoke on our good standing within the community and thanked us for all that we do for Barrow.

My thanks to Alex 'Spider' Webb for arranging a good social and a quiz which I actually knew some of the answers to. Still didn't make any difference as Jan Mead and Jeff Thomas along with their wives won hands down. Well done.

And so on to Saturday the 18th. What a start to the day, the heavens opened and it poured down with the outlook for the afternoon not looking good at all. Our prayers were answered when just in time the rain stopped to allow the unveiling of the AE1 & 2 Memorial to go ahead in the dry albeit very overcast and chilly. A big well done to Terry, Barrie and their team to make it such a memorable event. My thanks also to those who turned up to steward the massive crowds. Well done to you all. The rain kept off for the evening so that all you girls could show off your best outfits. You did us all proud. I noticed that most of the guys had the same suit on as me and the same colour shirt and shoes as well. I didn't get upset though. It turned out to be the best dinner dance I have attended and all down mainly to the hard work and effort that Jan Mead and Linda put in to make it the success it was. Having Admiral the Lord Boyce and Rear Admiral Mathew Parr and their wives join us was the icing on the cake. I have had some lovely thank you letters and emails as had Jan and I never heard one dissatisfied voice so well done Jan.

Lord Boyce wrote, *"Fleur and I had a marvellous time with you at your 50th Anniversary Commemorative Dinner last night. The Branch members were in excellent form and the air of conviviality and good humour was lovely to experience! An amazing amount of hard work must have gone into making the event so spectacularly successful, and my congratulations to you and the others behind the scenes who made it so."*

*So, thank you very much for a memorable and totally enjoyable evening, for Fleur flower's, and the mementos you gave us to take away and especially for your and Fiona's most friendly company. Thanks to for your part in the AE1/AE23 ceremony, which also went well.*

*Fleur joins me in wishing you and the Barrow Branch of the SA all the best for the next half century. Yours ever, Mike."*

And Rear Admiral Parr wrote, *"Thank you so much for inviting me and Marianne on Saturday. If that's the welcome I get as RASM I know things are going to be good for the next couple of years. It was a splendid evening; I know how much work goes into organising something like that. No doubt you saw the joints, but from my perspective it was faultless and I think you should be very proud of the evening and the branch in general. We had a very relaxing drive back no problems whatsoever – it was a totally enjoyable weekend for both of us, so thanks again for your generosity and impeccable planning that made it work so well. Yours Sincerely Matt Parr."*

Those two letters sum it up very well I think apart to say Jan Mead, you are a star. There were many others who also had an input and I give them my heartfelt thanks as well.

Those that attended were very impressed with the place mats. The original intention was to retain them for use at the Ladies night and they therefore hadn't been included in the costings, but so many asked if they could have them I put out an honesty box and lo and behold they were all gone. We had a few spare and all but one of those have gone too. However all is not lost because our supplier has said we can order more. So if you want one or indeed a set they cost £5 per place mat. Cash with your order please. They are pretty heavy so I don't intend to post them out. I have also been asked for matching coasters so I will get them priced and advise the price in due course.

I have passed across a disc of photos to Ben and I know he will be including some of them in this issue. Ron has agreed to run some discs off and will bring them to the next meeting. He will charge a nominal £1 to pay for the disc. I can assure you that they are all of excellent quality.

Well that's all for now. See you at the monthly meeting.

Dave







# Barrow Submarine Series: issue number 49

## *HMS Superb*



**TRIALS BEGIN:** The Barrow-built *HMS Superb* shown at sea during trials in June 1976

**T**HE Barrow-built *HMS Superb* retired from service at the end of September in 2008 after becoming the longest serving submarine in Royal Navy history.

The boat, nicknamed the "Super B" put in 32 years' service and was pensioned off at a special quayside service at Devonport dockyard in Plymouth.

An illustrious career started when the boat went down the slipway into Walney Channel on November 30 in 1974.

It ended in the summer of 2008 when *HMS Superb* hit an object under the Red Sea during operations.

It dented the front of the vessel and damaged equipment but the boat still made it back to Plymouth.

*Superb* was ordered by the government in May 1970 with a price tag of £25m.

The boat was laid down in march 1973 and commissioned into naval service in November 1976.

*Superb* took part in the Queen's Silver Jubilee Fleet Review in June 1977.

The first refit and refuelling of its reactor took place in 1986 and the second in 1998.

*Superb's* busy service life took it all over the world and saw the boat serve throughout the Cold War with Russia and in support of operations off Afghanistan.



**MAKING PROGRESS:** The submarine *Superb* pictured in November 1976

### **STATS:**

**Crew:** 116

**Displacement:** 4,900 tonnes (dived)

**Length:** 82.9m

**Beam:** 9.8m

**Draught:** 8.5m

**Propulsion:** Rolls-Royce pressurised water nuclear reactor

**Armament:** Spearfish torpedoes, RN Sub Harpoon and Tomahawk missiles

**Decommissioned:** September 26, 2008





**Alex Webb**  
Social Secretary

Firstly, may I thank all those who supported our 50th anniversary meeting and quiz; good turnout and so lovely to see so many of our lady folk attending. Special thanks go to my helpers on the evening Simon and Malcolm. Also the black tie event at the Forum was excellent; Jan Mead has always been a hard act to follow!!

### Diary Check

**Sat 29th June** we have been invited to the Coxn's Conference disco at the Legion. Kick off at 19:30.

**Sat 20th July** - To continue our anniversary celebrations; A Day Out at Cartmel Races – the list is open and restricted to 35 people. Cost is £20 or £27:50 depending on what part of the course you wish to go to. Transport departs RBL at 12 returns back at 19:30, as always happy to pick up at the main spots on the way through to Cartmel. I am happy (given demand) to cart along cheap booze for you to purchase on the coach. I need to square this event away just after our July meeting so please pay at time of booking or no later than the July meeting.

**Friday the 5th July** at the Prince of Wales in Foxfield – Jim Halliwell has declared this to be the date and place when the Morecambe branch will hold its July meeting. You are invited to attend and socialise with our 'first footing' shipmates.

**Sat 10th Aug** - BBQ at the Crofters in Holbeck - Excellent private area, outside bar with reduced bar prices from those inside. Normal BBQ nosebag, entertainment will be live music and disco, children's entertainment, games, raffle etc. Prize will be given for best outfit. Timings are event 2 – 9, BBQ 4 – 6, live entertainment 7 -9pm. Costing will be £7:50 adult and £5:00 per child. I need 100 attendees. So bring your families, grand children, and any friends you can. Tickets will go on sale from June.

**Fri 9th Nov** - Ladies Night - formal black tie event – venue is Chequers in Dalton, top class entertainment and food. There will be Favours for the ladies and all the 'bells and whistles' I can muster. Costing is £37:50 per person or buy in bulk 2 for £75. Tickets will go on sale in September. This is going to be a great evening so join in and treat your ladies.

**Sat 7th Dec** - Annual Christmas Party, disco, 4 piece rock and roll band, food and all the festive entertainment fun I can manage.

Life is too short to waste it sober, come along and party; it wouldn't be the same without you!!!!

Alex Webb

Social Secretary



**Ron Hiseman**  
Branch Secretary

Nearly half the year gone already, where does time go to these days? It's been a busy time since the New Year culminating in the 50th Anniversary celebrations last month. A big thank you to Jan for all the work done to have an enjoyable anniversary dinner. As usual for an event to pass so smoothly it resembles a swan serenely floating along with legs going 10 to the dozen out of sight. I am sure that there were times that Jan felt like that.

Unfortunately we lost 2 members that week in David Jenkins and Dave Dunford. Dave Jenkins we were prepared for but Dave Dunford came out of the blue as we didn't know he was ill. Apparently his cancer returned and took him quickly. The Branch wouldn't have known without the kind assistance of his next door neighbour Cate. Luckily Dave used to talk about his time in boats and about the branch, so when he crossed the bar Cate found our site and let us know. The Branch was represented at the funeral and provided a guard of honour for him.

Letters have gone out to Branch members who haven't paid their fees for a while. For those who do not answer, we may not have your address correct, they will be lapsed as Branch members after the July meeting. If you feel that you are one of the members please contact Mick, Treasurer, or myself and we will let you know. Also as we know of a couple who have moved, please let me know if you change address or e-mail so Branch records are up to date.

Well that ends the sermon for this month.

Ron Hiseman

### A1 & A2 Memorial Report

A full report on the A1 & A2 Memorial event is available in full including all appropriate pictures at the back of the this edition. The report has been written by Barrie Downer.





## SPANISH SUBS



One of Spain's largest defense splurges may also be one of its most embarrassing. After spending nearly one-third of a \$3 billion budget to build four of the world's most advanced submarines, the project's engineers have run into a problem: the submarines are so heavy that they would sink to the bottom of the ocean.

Miscalculations by engineers at Navantia, the construction company contracted to build the S-80 submarine fleet, have produced submarines that are each as much as 100 tonnes (110 US tonnes) too heavy. The excess weight sounds paltry compared to the 2,000-plus tonnes (2,205 US tonnes) that each submarine weighs, but it's more than enough to send the submarines straight to the ocean's floor.

Given the mistake, Spain is going to have to choose between two costly fixes: slimming the submarines down, or elongating them to compensate for the extra fat. All signs point to the latter, which will be anything but a breeze adding length will still require redesigning the entire vessel. And more money on top of the \$680 million already spent.

Spain's defense ministry, the government arm responsible for overseeing the project, has yet to say how much the setback will cost in both time and money. But Navantia has already estimated that its mistake will set the project back at least one or, more likely, two years. And the Spanish edition of European news site The Local reported that each additional meter added to the S-80s, already 71 meters in length, will cost over \$9 million.

It's a costly mistake on many fronts. The state-of-the-art submarines were meant to be the first

entirely Spanish-designed and built. Incompetence is likely going to cost the country at least some of the glory. Electric Boat, a subsidiary of US-based technology firm General Dynamics, has already evaluated the project and could be hired as a consultant to save the job.

Another bailout for Spain. This is getting all too familiar

## HMS TRENCHANT A RECORD BREAKING DEPLOYMENT



Trafalgar-class nuclear-powered submarine HMS Trenchant returned home from a record-breaking 11-month deployment on Wednesday, 22 May.

HMS Trenchant returned to Devonport exactly 11 months to the day she sailed on what became the longest patrol ever completed by one of the Royal Navy's hunter-killer boats.

Around 200 family members were waiting at Plymouth for their loved ones to return after 335 days away; 267 spent east of Suez.

To mark their achievements on that record-breaker - beating HMS Tireless's 2010/11 patrol by 12 days - the ship's company of 130 men were personally thanked by Britain's most senior military figure, Chief of the Defence Staff General Sir David Richards, who joined the boat at Plymouth Breakwater for the final few moments of its marathon tour of duty.

Once alongside, tears flowed and smiles beamed as crew members and families were reunited.

Thanks to rotation of the 170-strong crew, at least 40 of Trenchant's ship's company have been at home at any one time, but 7 submariners, 'Black Watch', completed the whole 11-month deployment.





## Chinese plan to catch up

America and its allies are facing a growing submarine threat in East Asia. Two decades ago, with the Cold War over, the United States Navy did not have much submarine competition in East Asia. The Russian Far East fleet was rapidly falling apart because of the defense budget being cut more than 80 percent. China and North Korea, traditional Russian allies, had a motley collection of older Russian subs. The U.S. and its allies (Australia, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Singapore) not only had more subs but they were of more modern design and construction.

That has changed. The U.S. Pacific Fleet currently has 39 subs in the Pacific, while the allies have 50 for a total of 89. In contrast China has 55 and its allies 40. North Korea also has over 70 mini-subs, which are only a factor close to the North Korean coast. All of North Korea's subs are either ancient or poorly maintained and operated by ill-trained crews. But China and Russia are enlarging and improving their submarine forces in the Pacific.

Over the next two decades the trends are in favor of China and Russia. China is in the process of increasing its sub fleet to 80 boats in the next decade. The Russian fleet, however, continues to shrink. By the end of the decade the Russians will have about fifty subs in service, some 30 of them will be nuclear. Three decades earlier they had 180 nuclear boats. All of those are gone now and the thirty that will remain at the end of the decade are new construction, most of them less than ten years old. That assumes the Russians keep to their current construction plans and shift most of their nuclear boats to the Pacific. The Chinese subs will also be largely new construction. But so will the subs of the Americans and their allies. The U.S. is moving more of its subs to the Pacific and China's neighbors are upgrading their submarine fleet.

China will thus still have about as many subs as its potential opponents but the quality gap will be closed somewhat. The American block will still have an edge but it is shrinking. This is what China intends to have happen. In a few decades China expects to close the quality gap. The Chinese strategy is one of gradual progress and so far it is working

## Indian Red Tape

The navy's desperate attempts to rescue its sinking underwater combat arm have been dealt a double whammy. First, the ongoing project to construct six Scorpene submarines has been delayed by another

14-18 months, with the first vessel now slated to roll out of Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) by November 2016 at the earliest. More worryingly, the new project to construct six advanced stealth submarines, armed with both land-attack missile capabilities and air-independent propulsion for greater underwater endurance, is still stuck in political apathy and bureaucratic red-tape. It has already been examined by three committees after being granted "acceptance of necessity" in November 2007.

The finance ministry has now again returned the file for the over Rs 50,000-crore project, code-named Project-75India, to the defence ministry for clarifications.

"The draft Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) note for P-75I is simply being tossed around with no resolution in sight. The global tender or RFP (request for proposal) for it can be issued only after the CCS approves the file," said a source.

Even if the P-75I tender is floated today, it will take at least three years to ink the contract with the selected foreign collaborator, and another seven to eight years after that for the first submarine to be built.

With the over Rs 23,000 crore Scorpene (P-75) project already running four years behind the original 2012-17 induction schedule, alarms bells are now ringing. The navy is making do with just 14 aging conventional diesel-electric submarines: 10 Russian Kilo-class and four German HDW ones which are to be progressively retired in the coming years despite life-extension refits. China and Pakistan, meanwhile, are adding muscle to their underwater combat fleets.

The navy wants private shipyards to be involved in the project to save time since MDL is overburdened with orders. But the MoD's defence production department has insisted that three will be built at MDL in Mumbai and one at Hindustan Shipyard in Visakhapatnam.

The Scorpene project, with contracts being inked with French firms in October 2005 has been grossly mismanaged, with huge time and cost overruns. The deal for the 'MDL procured material packages', including sensors, propulsion and the likes, with the French firms was signed only last December. The order for heavy-weight torpedoes to arm the submarines is also yet to be placed.

Projections show only five to six of the present 14 Indian submarines will be fully operational by 2020. Even with a few Scorpene's by then, India will remain far short of the minimum 18 conventional submarines required to deter Pakistan and China.



## Letters

I have received a number of thank you letters regarding the Celebrations at the Forum on the 18th and have included 2 in this section.

Dear Dave

It was very kind of the Committee and Members of the Branch to invite me to the celebrations on the occasion of your 50th Anniversary at the Forum.

It was a very enjoyable evening and to be seated on the Dreadnought table was very thoughtful. Thank-you I was made very welcome by everyone.

My Best Wishes to the Branch and to the next 50 years.

Regards

Joyce Tull

Dear Dave

Many thanks for the invite to the 50th Anniversary of the Barrow Submariners Association.

It was an excellent evening, the meal was superb and the company great. I enjoyed myself very much. Once again Thank you.

Regards

Joan Cole.



## WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Barrow-in-Furness Branch  
14th May 2013  
David Jenkins  
L Mech 1  
P/051197  
Aged 69  
Submarine Service  
Warspite

Barrow-in-Furness Branch  
18th May 2013  
David Dunford  
FCMEA (P)  
MX 857522  
Aged 79  
Submarine Service  
Alcide, Porpoise & Oberon

Dolphin Branch  
13th May 2013  
Lindsay Price  
Lieutenant  
Aged 96  
Submarine Service  
Jupiter, Upright, Trespasser  
Safari & Sceptre

Merseyside Branch  
19th May 2013  
Tony Miles  
Leading Seaman  
D/JX194438  
Aged 91  
Submarine Service  
Safari, Una, Unseen, Unrivalled  
Uproar, Untiring, Umbra & Ultar

South Kent Branch  
17th May 2013  
John Dunn  
AB (UW)  
Aged 77  
Submarine Service  
Alderney, Turpin & Finwhale

Gosport Branch  
24th May 2013  
Ray Critchell  
CPO Cook  
P/MX897562  
Aged 80  
Submarine Service  
Andrew, Alaric, Andrew, Odin  
Orpheus, Spiteful, Seascout  
Turpin, Taciturn, Tapir  
& Tiptoe

Non Member  
13th May 2013  
Ralph Hoy  
Aged 57

Non Member  
10th May 2013  
Albert William Morley  
Stephens  
Captain  
Submarine Service  
Walrus, Courageous  
Conqueror

Non Member  
13th May 2013  
Brandon Carmichael  
LS SSM  
Aged 30  
Submarine Service  
Torbay

SAOC Canada  
18th May 2013  
Freddie Sherwood  
LT CDR RCNVR  
Aged 99  
Submarine Service  
Spiteful (P277)

Australia Branch  
15th May 2013  
Gerry France  
Leading Cook  
Submarine Service

Non member  
24th Oct 2012  
David (Yorkie) Whitaker  
Artificer  
Submarine Service  
Valiant

Non Member  
24th Oct 2012  
Sir Garth Morrison  
Lieutenant  
Aged 70  
Submarine Service  
Revenge (S)

New Zealand Branch  
25th April 2013  
John Howe  
CPO TASI  
P/JX 660442  
Aged 83  
Submarine Service  
Truncheon, Tireless, Tabard  
Talent & Dreadnought

*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.*

## Jan Mead

Thanks very much to all who supported the dinner on Sat 18th May.

I have received many phone calls and emails and verbal complements on the dinner which is great but at the end of the day its a team effort.I have received no negative feedback at all

I would like to share this with the membership. As you know there was 5 bottles of wine per table plus a bottle of port.

Whilst setting up the tables on the Friday night Sarah the deputy catering manageress said to me. You seem to have an awful lot of alcohol on the tables Mr Mead do you want to review that. No I said I assure you there wont be any left. OK she said perhaps I can reduce the bar staff then. The look of horror on my face confirmed that would not be a good idea.

When I went to pay the bill they commented on the alcohol consumption as the bar takings were well over a thousand pounds.


Compared to other functions we are miles ahead in every department. The Sodexo team commented on everyones courtesy and thanks.

Regards  
Jan

### ARMED FORCES WEEK

On Monday 24 June at a time TBA the Barrow Armed Forces and Veterans will parade at the Town Hall with their Standards. The Armed Forces Flag will be raised.

The Chairman will attend a meeting on Monday 10th June to discuss final arrangements but if last year is anything to go by there will be a buffet luncheon in the Town Hall on completion. If you are interested contact Dave so that he can advise the arrangements when known.



June 2013

**Members Birthdays**

B.Riley	03/06
T.Plater	03/06
A.Haythornethwaite	09/06
T.Nolan	12/06
G.Murrin	16/06
J.Cadman	16/06
R.Palmer	17/06
R.Brailsford	21/06
K.Walker	21/06
B.Downer	23/06
J.Brown	25/06
A.Pillifent	25/06
D.Pallister	29/06
T.Griffiths	29/06
D.Johns	30/06

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

### DISCLAIMER

*This Newsletter is published by the Submariners Association (Barrow in Furness) and is (c) 2013. 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 June for the July 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

### June

**CIVIC SUNDAY**  
Sunday 23 June

Will take place at the Church of St Mary of Furness, Duke Street.Parade will muster in the Town Hall Square at 12.50, march off at 13.15 for the service at 13.30 at St Mary's Church.Standard will be required. On completion light refreshments will be provided.

Please advise Dave Barlow if you are attending so that catering requirements can be assessed.







# 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 submariner Victoria Cross winners.

If you have any comments or suggestions on how our puzzles can be improved or developed, drop an email to Bill Myers at [bill.myers@cnmedia.co.uk](mailto:bill.myers@cnmedia.co.uk)

## CLUES

1. WANKLYN

2. ROBERTS

3. GOULD

4. MIERS

5. LINTON

6. CAMERON

7. PLACE

8. FRASER

9. MAGENNIS

10. SANFORD

11. HOLBROOK

12. BOYLE

13. NASMITH

14. WHITE

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

Last month's wordsquare solution (below)

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



WHERE'S MY NAME? This picture shows the Victoria Cross winner Norman Holbrook. See if you can find his name and the other 13 VC winners in the wordsquare





**Barrow Submariners Association Chairman Dave Barlow  
& Barrow Mayor Colin Thompson**



Picture supplied courtesy of the Evening Mail



**The Barrow Submariners committee with the new  
Barrow Mayor, Colin Thomson and Mayoress Brenda Thompson**

Picture supplied courtesy of the Evening Mail



**The new Barrow Mayoress, Brenda Thomson, with the new  
Mayor, Colin Thomson on his first day in office; with Branch  
Chairman, Dave Barlow and Admiral Sir James Perowne.  
Tuesday 14th May 2013**







Pictures Supplied by Mike Vallance







Pictures Supplied by Mike Vallance





## **THE BARROW IN FURNESS AUSTRALIAN SUBMARINE MEMORIAL**

A Memorial commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 'Launch' in 1913 of HM Australian Submarines AE1 and AE2 - the first two Submarines to be built for the Royal Australian Navy - was unveiled by Admiral the Lord Boyce – Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Patron of the Submariners Association - and James, Lord Abinger in Ramsden Square in Barrow in Furness at 1500 on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

The weather forecast for the day was for torrential rain during the afternoon with up to 50-mm of rain likely. In the event, although it rained heavily until 1415, the rain then eased off and it remained dry but heavily overcast for the duration of the ceremonies.

Prior to the Unveiling a 'Meet and Greet' was held at 1330 in the Bluepole Offices above the old Fire Station Building in Abbey Road. This was an opportunity for the invited guests to meet the VIPs and, particularly for the descendant family members to meet each other for the first time. At 1415 the Unveiling Party and Guests proceeded to Ramsden Square for the Ceremony. Mr. Terry Spurling, the Project Manager of the Memorial Committee, acted as Master of Ceremonies.



### **The Unveiling Ceremony**

The Worshipful Mayor of Barrow, Councillor Colin Thompson was introduced by Terry Spurling;



Councillor Colin Thompson then welcomed everyone to Barrow:

‘Admiral Lord Boyce, Lord Abinger, Distinguished Guests, Members of the Submariners Association and Barrovians.

I am honoured to be here today, as the Mayor of Barrow, to welcome you all to Barrow in Furness on the occasion to honour those who sailed from Barrow on what would be a remarkable journey for submarines at that time.

Few Submarines of this era sailed so far without breaking down. The voyage to Australia took 83 days, 60 days being spent at sea, sailing from the UK on the 2nd March, arriving in Sydney on the 24th May.

This is a tribute not only to the crews but also to those skilled employees of the yard whose skills and expertise made this possible.

Those Submarines were constructed in what was then known as Vickers Ltd Shipyard. Today it is BAE Systems, but to many in the town it will always be known as Vickers or the Shipyard.

These E-Class boats were themselves a major technical advance in submarine construction, something that the yard has excelled in over the hundred years since these boats were built.

For the first time the hull was sub-divided by traverse watertight bulkheads. In addition to improving safety, this added to the hull strength, enabling greater diving depths to be achieved.

This may have been a contributory factor for the success of the other Barrow built E-class boats in the Dardanelles.

What these crews achieved is something that the Royal Australian Navy is rightly proud of. The exploits of Lieutenant Commander Stoker and his crew are an integral part of the ANZAC tradition. It being celebrated on the day, the 25th April, that the AE2 broke through the Dardanelles into the Sea of Marmara, raising the morale of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

They did not create the legend - that honour belongs to the troops on the beachheads. But they are honoured as the silent Anzac. The Anzac legend remains today, respected nearly a hundred years later throughout the Commonwealth if not the world.

It is fitting that the first Submarine memorial in Barrow should be for the combined Australian and British trail-blazers for those submarine exploits that followed in the Gallipoli campaign.

Neither should we forget the role of many local (Northwest) regiments during this period, the fact that one beach at Gallipoli is known today as the Lancaster Landing is a measure of their achievements. They too remember the deeds of AE2.

Many Barrovians living here today would be fourth, fifth or sixth generation of shipyard worker. They are proud of their heritage, proud too of their ancestor's roles in creating that milestone of Australian history.

Thank you. We will remember them.

The Guest of Honour, Admiral the Lord Boyce, thanked the Mayor for his welcoming speech.





‘Mr Mayor, Lord Abinger, Ladies and Gentlemen

In October this year, Australia is staging an International Fleet Review to commemorate the first entry of the RAN Fleet into Sydney in October 1913 and I am glad to say that I understand that the RN will be proudly taking part – glad because the RN and I have had a long association with the Aussie Navy – especially the Submarine Service. Indeed my first visit to Australia was in a Submarine – HMS ANCHORITE. And to say that we were well looked after by our Australian counterparts is a serious understatement.

And I still have a close friendship with some of the Submariners that I grew up with from the time I joined the RN and I know this is the case for lots of other colleagues, many of whom enjoyed exchange appointments in each other’s services. We shared training and the same ethos, an ethos that started in 1910 and was firmly forged in 1913.

When, one hundred years ago, in May 1913, Submarine AE1 was launched here in Barrow; and AE2 in June; and the two Submarines were then commissioned into February 1914 with crews of RN Officers and a mix of RN and RAN Submarine personnel

And, as I’ve said, the bond between the two Submarine Services was firmly forged then, and it is one that last until this day – as evidenced by having an RN Submariner standing here today.

After WWI and those first AE Submarines, the RAN Submarine service continued to receive boats built here in UK; and Submariners continued to cross-exchange as a series of different classes of boats were developed over the decades up until the 1970s.

So, for example we had 6 ‘J’ Class Submarines gifted after the War – again with mixed crews; but they did not see much service. And they were superseded by two ‘O’ Class Submarines named OXLEY and OTWAY, ordered from Vickers at Barrow on 31st March 1925 and during WWII a considerable number of Australian Officers served in RN Submarines. They were variously Members of the Royal Navy, RAN and Reserve Forces from both Navies. Several Australian Officers served in X-Craft as well as in full size Submarines of all Classes. Although there were no Submarines in the RAN (except see Submarine K9 below) several Australian Officers also completed the Commanding Officer Qualifying Course and commanded Royal Navy Submarines.

And a number of Australian Ratings also served in Royal Navy Submarines during WWII: especially in late 1944 and in 1945 when RN Submarines were based in Fremantle, Western Australia for patrols in the Far East.

After the War, Royal Navy Submarines returned to Australia in late 1949 to be based in Sydney forming the 4th Submarine Flotilla and then in the 1960s, the RAN decided to re-establish an RAN Submarine Service with ‘OBERON’ Class Submarines again with many of the personnel manning these Submarines being transferees from the Royal Navy but the bulk were RN personnel.

Submarine co-operation between the Royal Navy and the Royal Australian Navy Submarine Services continued with regular exchanges of personnel – including routine exchanges of Submarine Commanding Officers – until the decision in the 1990s that the Royal Navy would discontinue the employment of Conventional Submarines and to concentrate solely on nuclear powered Submarines.

Since then contact has been maintained with the exchange of ideas on various aspects of submarining, and there is still a great affinity between the two submarine services.

So that is why it is appropriate that representatives from both our countries are here today to remember the brave Australian and British submarines who crewed AE1 and AE2 and who set the trend of our sharing for decades the dangers of warfare from under the sea. And binding us together we should remember the words of Winston Churchill who in WW2 said – and his words can just as easily apply to WWI as they do today – ‘of all the branches of the men in the forces there is none which shows more devotion, and faces grimmer perils, than the submariner. Great deeds are done in the air and on the land; nevertheless nothing surpasses your exploits’.

Ladies and Gentlemen: it is fitting that this memorial is here in the birthplace of AE1 and AE2 to commemorate the memory of those submariners and their crews a century on. And I feel enormously privileged and honoured to have been asked to be involved with its unveiling.'

A 'Service of Dedication' then followed - led by Mr. Alan Jones, the Lay Chaplain of the Barrow in Furness Submariners Association:

MARK 4:39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm

PSALM 93:4 Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea-- the LORD on high is mighty.

These two readings from Christian scripture remind us on this day that whilst mankind is capable of building powerful vessels for passage both on and below the waves, it teaches us that our power pales into insignificance in comparison. We have a creator God that holds the oceans in His almighty power and it in His holy name we pray.



**Alan Jones**

#### **OPENING PRAYER:**

We are gathered here today before God our Heavenly Father to dedicate the names inscribed upon these memorial plinths. We remember with thanksgiving and pride those whose lives that were taken away so many years ago in the pursuit of peace. We pray that this memorial will continue to honour the memory of those who died, for justice and peace, both in their world of yester-year, and the world that is in existence for us today. We pray to our Almighty God to stretch forth His Mighty Arm to strengthen and protect our Submariners: grant that they meet any possible danger with courage; discipline; and loyalty, and may they truly serve the cause of justice and peace; to the honour of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Barrie Downer then read the poem "**Entombed but not Forgotten**" written by an Australian - Del M'Cay in 1914 - following the unexplained loss of Submarine AE1:





She faced no battle flame, she heard no German gun,  
The ship without a name, the luckless AE-1.  
Yet were her sailor's lives no less for Empire lost,  
And mothers, sweethearts, wives must pay the bitter cost.  
Australia's warships sweep the broad Pacific main,  
But one from out the deep will never rise again.  
Yet we shall not forget, through all the years that run,  
The fate that she has met - Goodbye to AE-1.

Pent in their iron cell, they sank beneath the wave,  
Untouched by shot or shell, they drifted to the grave.  
Until their painful breath at last began to fail;  
Upon their way to death let pity draw the veil.  
They could not strike one blow, but out of sound and sight  
Of comrade or of foe they passed to endless night;  
Deep down on Ocean's floor, far from the wind and sun  
They rest for evermore - Goodbye to AE-1.

Alan Jones read:

**'The Submariner's Prayer':**

O Father, hear our prayer to Thee  
For your humble servants, beneath the sea  
In the depths of oceans, as oft they stray  
So far from night, so far from day  
We would ask your Guiding Light to glow  
To make their journey safe below  
Please oft times grant them patient mind  
Then 'ere the darkness won't them blind  
They seek thy protection from the deep,  
Please grant them peace when 'ere they sleep  
Of their homes and loved ones far away  
We ask you care for them each day  
Until they surface once again  
To drink the air and feel the rain  
We ask your guiding hand to show  
A safe progression sure and slow  
Dear Lord, please hear our prayer to thee  
For your humble servants beneath the sea.

The order '**OFF CAPS**' was given by Lieutenant Commander Colin Torney of HMS ARTFUL.

Alan Jones led everyone in saying the **Lord's Prayer**.

The '**Prayer of Dedication**' was read by Alan Jones:

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love we cannot be parted either by death or life, we offer our thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day. Bless these names inscribed upon this wall, which we now dedicate. In thy gracious goodness, Fulfil in those whom we commemorate the purpose of your love, and bring us all with them to your eternal glory;  
This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord AMEN.

The Order '**ON CAPS**' was given by Lieutenant Commander Colin Torney

### THE UNVEILING

Admiral Lord Boyce then said:

'We dedicate this Memorial to those brave Submariners of our two nations who lost their lives in the service of their country.'

James, Lord Abinger then said:

'We also dedicate this Memorial to the memory of the ancestors of all our families who served their country on board these Submarines.'

The Memorial was revealed by CPO (MESM) Chris Middleton and Leading Seaman Dave Shaw from HMS ARTFUL (currently under construction in the BAE Shipyard) and PO Cadet Joshua Bell and AB Cadet Callum Ewing from TS SOVEREIGN (Barrow in Furness Sea Cadet Corps) who removed the Royal Navy and the Royal Australian Navy Ensigns which had been concealing the Memorial.







### The Barrow Branch Standard Bearer Mike (Ginge) Cundell 'dips' the Standard

Mr Tom Tribe of AE1 Inc. U.K. (a descendant family member) and a member of the Australian Memorial Committee then spoke about the AE1 families:



Tom Tribe told of Lieutenant the Hon. Leopold Scarlett who joined the Royal Navy and became a Submariner in 'B' Class Submarines. He later developed tuberculosis and was invalided from the Navy. Leopold Scarlett then went to Australia where he hoped the dry climate would help him recover. In 1914, after the arrival of the AE Submarines and, after war broke out, additional Officers were needed to crew the Submarines and Leopold Scarlett volunteered. Apparently cured of his tuberculosis he was accepted and he was appointed to Submarine AE1 as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hand. Two weeks later Submarine AE1 was lost with all hands in mysterious circumstances off Papua New Guinea.

Tom then read a letter which had been received from the AE1 Descendant Families' Association in Australia:

To the AE1 and AE2 UK Memorials Committee

Dear Tom, Terry and Barrie

On behalf of the Descendent Families Assoc. in Australia we would like to send a greeting and express appreciation on the occasion of the unveiling of the memorial to AE1/AE2 Submarines and their crews.

When AE1 one lost, it was the first naval casualty for the new Australian Navy, and the Navy has always been faithful in honouring the memory of her crew. However the loss of 35 men on an island far distant from battlefields of Europe was completely overshadowed by the catastrophic losses of Australian troops there over the following 4 years.

In many ways our family members mourned alone. To now have their sacrifice and grief acknowledged and their son and brother honoured by the community in the place where AE1 was built is treasured by their descendants.

Our heartfelt thanks to all those involved in this ceremony and the memorial honouring the men of AE1 and AE2.

Yours sincerely

Vera Ryan (Convenor), Robyn Rosenstrauss (Secretary)

Finally Tom also spoke about the sad situation of Emma Elizabeth Thomas - the wife of Able Seaman James Thomas of AE1. She had embarked in England for passage to Australia with her young children and arrived in Australia not knowing that Submarine AE1 had been lost. On arrival she was met by a lady who was to be her new neighbour and who had intercepted a telegram from the postman that morning. Realising what news the telegram contained she rushed to the jetty to meet Emma and break the news. Emma decided to stay in Australia and became good friends with her new neighbour. One of Emma's daughters was living in a care home in Australia when the Memorial in Sydney was unveiled in 2011 and attended that ceremony.



James, Lord Abinger – related to Lieutenant the Hon. Leopold Scarlett then said:



**James, Lord Abinger**

‘It is a great honour for me to be here today, with my wife and children, to mark this very historic occasion.

For me personally, it provides the opportunity to talk about the many tragic events that took place nearly 100 years ago.’

The next speaker was Commander Gustaaf Henri Nord-Thomson from the Australian High Commission in London – representing the Royal Australian Navy.



Admiral Lord Boyce, Lord Abinger, your Worship the Mayor of Barrow - Councillor Colin Thomson, relatives here today of those who served in AE1 and 2, Members of the Barrow in Furness Branch of the Submariners Association, Ladies and Gentlemen – it is indeed a great honour to be here today to represent Australia and the Australian people at the unveiling of this memorial.

As a fellow submariner, I can say that submariners world-wide are a special breed, rarely understood by mere mortals and never by skimmers – those who deem to spend their lives on the surface.

Submariners of all nations understand this and share a mutual respect, knowing the hardship and danger that each has faced to achieve membership of that elite club to which submariners belong. And today is such an occasion to recognise the close submarine bond that exists between our two

nations – one that is near on now 100 years strong and also it is an opportunity to salute you for honouring the family members of those who served in AE1 and AE2, present today from both countries.

Following on from previous speakers, today I will take the opportunity to talk about Australian submarines that proceeded AE1 and AE2, and the closer relationship that has continued between our countries since. I will also look to our future relationship in respect of Australia's future submarine programme.

After the loss of AE1/AE2 the remaining Australian submariners served in a number of British submarines. Several lost their lives, including Read admiral Creswell's son when XO of E47 on 20th August 1917- although born in Australia he was actually Royal Navy. One Australian born submariner – Reuben Mitchell – won a DSM in the Dardanelles in E14, the CO of E14, Lieutenant Commander White, won a posthumous VC in the same action.

During the Zeebrugge raid in 1918 the CO of C3 was awarded the VC. His XO, Lieutenant Howell-Price was Australian born but Royal Naval Reserve and later transferred to the RAN. We also lost PO Kempster, DSM, RAN in G8 on 3rd Jan 1918 and one of the first RAN College entrants, Midshipman E S Cunningham in K17 on 31st Jan 1918.

A relationship that began with AE1 and AE2 was continued throughout the War, forged in action and sacrifice.

After the War the UK gave Australia surplus J Class submarines in thanks for our wartime efforts. Commander Boyle (who won a VC in the Dardanelles) came out from UK to take charge of them. We also still had RAN personnel in British Submarines in the inter war years like Lieutenant R C Casey, RAN who was lost in the submarine M1 in 1925.

In the late 1920s Australia bought two 'O' Class submarines. Again all our training was done with the British. When we could no longer afford them we gave them back to the UK and they served in WWII.

During WWII several Australians served in British Submarines, again some were lost. One of our most famous submariners was Max Shean who participated in the X-Craft raids in European waters and South East Asia.

Post-war Anti-Submarine Warfare training in Australia relied on the presence of British Submarine Squadrons in Sydney until we got our own 'OBERON' Class boats in the late 1960s. Oberon Class Submarines

Post-war Oberon's were built in UK and we relied on British officers to get everything up and running. I think we had an exchange CO programme for most of their life. Indeed I served in HMS ONSLOW which was built in UK and I must say it was a fine submarine!

It wasn't until four initial Oberon Class Submarines were commissioned that we began to build a strong submarine fleet. While the Oberon's were not involved in any conflict while in service, their presence was invaluable to the Navy. Four boats were commissioned initially: OXLEY (March 1967), OTWAY (March 1968), OVENS (April 1969) and ONSLOW (December 1969) HMAS OXLEY's arrival in Sydney coincided with the commissioning of the Submarine Base, HMAS PLATYPUS, at Neutral Bay, Sydney. In 1977 and 1978 two more submarines were commissioned – HMAS ORION and OTAMA.

COLLINS Class Submarines

To the present day the 'COLLINS' Class submarines are a key element of Australia's Defence Force, both as an intelligence-gathering platform and as a forceful opponent during times of war. The names of the 'COLLINS' Class Submarines commemorate the memory of six members of the RAN who served their country with distinction – being HMAS COLLINS, FARNCOMB, WALER, DECHAINEUX, SHEEAN and RANKIN. They achieve an optimum match between innovation and proven technical prowess.

Future Submarines

Finally moving on to Australia's future submarine programme – the 2013 Defence White Paper highlights the strategic value and importance of Australia's submarine capability and confirms the



Government's commitment to replacing the existing COLLINS Class fleet with an expanded fleet of twelve conventional submarines, to be built in South Australia.

The Future Submarine Project will be the largest and most complex Defence project ever undertaken by Australia. It is a national challenge of unprecedented scale and complexity, and will span decades.

The Government has now taken the important decision to focus resources on progressing an 'evolved COLLINS' and new design options that are likely to best meet Australia's future strategic and capability requirements.

The Government has also directed that new land-based submarine design facilities be established directed to research, integrate, assemble and test the propulsion and energy systems of the Future Submarine.

The implementation of the project will require a sustained and co-ordinated national effort harnessing the knowledge, skills, expertise and lessons-learned over the last fifty years of Australian Submarine ownership. The success of the project will depend critically on close collaboration with Commonwealth and State Agencies, and strategic partners which already includes the UK.

I conclude with acknowledgements and particular thanks to Admiral Lord Boyce, Lord Abinger and Councillor Thompson. I thank all the Submarine Associations that have worked together to make this Memorial a reality – Barrow in Furness has and always will have a very special link with Australia and its Submariners. Finally, I thank you all for attending this event to honour our first submarine – AE1 and AE2 and their Officers and Crew.

Centenary of Submarines 2014

In order to mark a century since the 1914 arrival in Australia of HMA Submarines AE1 and AE2, the Submarines Institute of Australia has established a Submarine Centenary Project.

Australia's Submarine Centenary will commemorate submarine plus important places and people in Australia's submarine history.

Celebrations will culminate in late 2014 with activities, conferences and commemorative services in Fremantle, Western Australia – raising the submarine profile continuously through to 2014, other submarine history items are being promoted and pursued at every opportunity. So if you can make it along, you will be most welcome.

## **NATIONAL ANTHEMS**

The Australian National Anthem 'Advance Australia Fair' was sung by the Barrow Mail Voice Choir and this was followed by the National Anthem 'God Save the Queen'



**The Barrow Male Voice Choir**

## CLOSING WORDS

The Closing Words were spoken by Mr David Barlow – Chairman of the Barrow in Furness Branch of the Submariners Association:



My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Had it not been for the vision, dedication and perseverance of AE1 Incorporated this Memorial would have remained just a dream and I thank them for bringing this project to fruition.

The Barrow Branch of the Submariners Association has been honoured and privileged in being asked to assist in bringing that dream into reality.

To that end I must specifically thank our historian, Mr. Barrie Downer, who did the initial spade work and ensured the accuracy of the words and names on the Memorial, Mr. Terry Spurling who has Project Managed the whole event, Mr. Robert Pointer who has been our direct liaison with the Barrow Borough Council and Mr. Alan Jones who has officiated here this afternoon.

I would also like to thank:

The Barrow Borough Council - for providing and preparing the site, for their legal and planning expertise, as well as allowing us to disrupt the traffic and the normal Saturday afternoon calmness of the town

Bluepole - for their hospitality and for printing the programmes

Mossops Monumental Masons - for manufacturing and erecting the Memorial

The Barrow Male Voice Choir

Co-operative Funeral Care for providing limousines for our principle guests

BAE Systems

The North West Evening Mail

But finally I thank you, the townsfolk of Barrow, for coming along this afternoon and witnessing this very unique event, the unveiling of the first Memorial in Barrow, to Barrow built submarines.

Thank you.