

50th Anniversary • 1963 - 2013



Barrowsanews@gmail.com

Submariners Association • Barrow-in- Furness Branch Newsletter • Issue 158 • August 2013





The August Word



Please accept my apologies for the lateness of this newsletter. It is not Bens

fault, well not entirely. I had gone away at the time I do my introduction and forgot my laptop. On my return I simply forgot all about it.

Did you go to the Cartmel Races? No; well you missed a

great day out. I personally had never been to the races before so did not know what to expect. Not being a gambler I was a bit concerned I would show myself up if I had a modest flutter. No worries on that score. Kenny Collins and I pooled 50p each and went on a horse that won and we were £4.50 each better off.

Barrow Submariner's Association Branch Officials



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|---------------|
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Alan Jones

LAY CHAPLAIN **Alan Jones** 01229 463150

Quite a laugh. The whole day was well organised by Alex Webb who should get a job as a tourist guide. Everything just fell into place and already I am looking forward to next year. However if it hadn't been for some of the Army veterans and the RBL members we would have run at a loss.

We had the BBQ last weekend at the Crofters Pub. Once again Alex excelled himself with his organisation. He had a bouncy castle and other activities for the children and an outside bar with reduced prices for the grown ups and some of the Artful crew did the BBQ. Lovely grub and I didn't hear any complaints. Even the weather held up and so we all had a great time.

As you should all know by now, Jan Mead has taken over as the Slops rep. If there is anything you want or have any ideas for Jan then let him know. I know he has some ideas up his sleeve so I am waiting to see what he comes up with.

Although the deadline for the Annual Mixed Reunion in Solihull is passed I will break the rules and if anybody is still considering attending then phone me pronto as I am finalising the details with the hotel.

Well as Fiona is away in Russia visiting our daughter I had better get on with the washing and ironing. A mans work is never done!! See you all next time.

Dave



Social Secretary

What a glorious month of sunshine. The Prince of Wales at Foxfield was a lovely evening in the company of our 'first footing' shipmates from Morecambe. Although there were only

four of us from the Barrow branch I can tell you the sun was shining, the beer was flowing and dits were coming fast and furious, I thoroughly enjoyed it. I like to give my thanks to Duds, Dave B and Barrie D for their wonderful company & support.

The Cartmel trip went well; fantastic support from 33 of the nicest people I have been stuck on a bus with for many a year. Although out of pocket on the 'nags', I am pleased to say I wasn't disappointed with the company or the fun I had. Same time next year me thinks!!!

Diary Check:

Sat 10th Aug - BBQ at the Crofters in Holbeck Excellent private area where you can sit in the sun or slumber in the shade, outside bar with reduced bar prices. Included is the normal BBQ nosebag, live entertainment from 'Shindig' and the up and coming magician; Kristian. Also arranged is: an extensive children's entertainment programme, bouncy castle, face painting and games for the adults, raffle, and prizes galore. Timings are 2-9: children games until 5, BBQ 5-6, Kristian 6-7 and finished off with 2 hours of high quality music from "Shindig". Cost £7:50 adult and £5:00 per child, under 5's free; bring your families and friends. Tickets are on sale; I need your support to make this the day it deserves to be.

NEW ITEM: Fri 20th Sept - Race Night at the Legion in support of the Association and children's ward at Furness General. Tickets are £4 which includes your race card, pie and peas and a £1 donation to the children's ward. You also have the chance of winning extra prizes on the night by becoming a horse owner; these can be bought now for £2 each. It will be a great night of beer, food, laughter and the thrills of the races. Ticket must be pre-bought for food, or you can pay on the door: £2, which of course does not include food.

Fri 9th Nov - Ladies Night - formal black tie event venue 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.

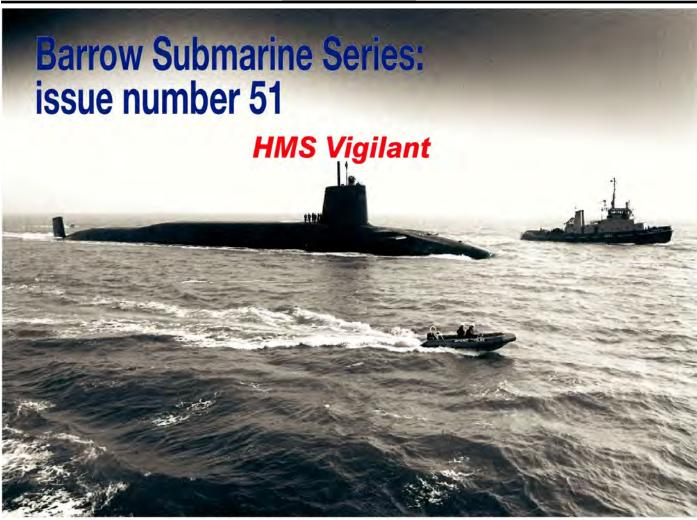
Sat 7th Dec – End of year annual Christmas party, disco, 4 piece rock and roll band, food and all the festive entertainment fun I can muster, cost minimal to cover food.

And remember these two famous quotes: "I feel sorry for people who don't drink. When they wake up in the morning, that's as good as they're going to feel all day" and "Do not take life too seriously. You will never get out of it alive"!!!!!

Alex Webb Social Secretary







FINAL STAGES: The Barrow-built Vigilant shown leaving for the start of sea trials in March 1996

THE Trident ballistic missile submarine *HMS Vigilant* was named and rolled out at Barrow on October 14 in 1995.

The naming ceremony at the Devonshire Dock Hall was carried out by admiral's wife Lady Jane Frere.

The then Barrow Mayor, Cllr Flo Proudfoot, said: "It makes you feel really proud that we have the expertise and knowledge to build sich a wonderful vessel."

Vigilant was the 22nd vessel to bear the name in the Royal Navy and had been ordered in 1990 as part of the Vanguard Class.

Two days of test dives took place in Devonshire Dock in December 1995 using only battery power.

The official commissioning brochure for November 2 in 1996 notes that the first man in charge was Commander John Tottenham.

He was the son of a submariner and had previously served on Sealion, Otus, Resolution, Repulse, Oracle, Onslaught and Vanguard.

Almost 1,000 guests were there to see crew members parade in formation on the quayside with the support of a Royal Marines band.

The £500m boat underwent contractor's sea trials from March 17

to June 1 in 1996 off the Western Isles of Scotland.

The petty officer caterer and a team of six chefs were expected, in an average month, to get through 12,500 teabags, 3,500 pints of milk, 600 chickens, a half-ton of flour, 6,500 bread rolls, 700 loaves of bread and enough beef to make four cows,

In December 1990 *Vigilant* – or at least a large section – had made a piece of motoring history as it became the largest load ever moved on a public road in Britain.

The 1,340 tonne piece of steelwork was moved from the top yard into the Devonshire Dock Hall after lamp-post tops and two traffic islands were removed.

In October 2008 *Vigilant* was docked at Devonport naval base in Plymouth for a major refit and refuelling, valued at £270m, by Babcock Marine.

STATS:

Displacement: 16,000 tonnes, dived

Length: 150m Beam: 13.2m Crew: 135

Propulsion: Rolls-Royce pressurised water nuclear reactor

Armament: Lockhead Trident three-stage solid fuel rockets with a range of 4,000 nautical miles. Four 21in (533mm) torpedo tubes with Marconi Spearfish weapons.



PROUD DAY: The naming ceremony for the Trident submarine *Vigilant* at Barrow's Devonshire Dock Hall in October 1995



Branch Secretary

Ron Hiseman

I hope you have all been enjoying the fine weather we have been having recently and long may it continue. This month's meeting will celebrate/commiserate the loss of the tot back in 1970. I am too young to have drawn the tot but still remember my dad not being a happy bunny on the loss. He switched to whiskey after that until I brought a bottle of Pussers home for his Christmas present in 1984.

Barbeque on 10th August so if you haven't got your tickets yet please see Alex as soon as possible. Submarine Flotilla golf as on the 15th at Carden park and a good day should be had by all.

Another couple of members for the Branch so offer our usual warm welcome if they make the meeting. There are discussions at National level about having a Face Book pages as Keith has had some success in recruiting new members from the Buddies in Boats site and a FB page may act as a good recruiting site.

BBQ UPDATE



There were just short of 100 people at the BBQ on Saturday, I would personally like to thank you all for your support. For my part I am heartened and pleased to be your social secretary and with this sort of support then the Barrow Submariners Association will be turning and burning for a lot longer yet.

Thanks go to all our support staff; Terry Spurling and the Rotary (PA), Dave & Ian: BAE (gazebos), Eddie (our cook) and Ginge (coxn & marketing specialist) from HMS Artful, John & Gill (landlord & landlady) from Crofters, Tony (bouncy castle) from Furness Leisure, Kristian the magician (you haven't seen the last of him), Michelle (face painter), Shindig (Billy & Brian top rate duo) and

all of the members who came along and enjoyed the day.

Same time next year; but with the live entertainment being inside in the warm. Be There or Be Square!!

Alex Webb

Indian submarine blasts Divers struggle to search vessel



Indian divers are struggling to search a submarine which sank after it exploded in a Mumbai dock-yard with 18 sailors feared dead inside.

Rescuers are yet to reach any of the crew who were on board when two huge explosions led to a devastating fire early on Wednesday.

Officials say they have been hampered by poor visibility, restricted space and equipment displaced by the blasts.

The divers are also working to bring the vessel back to surface. India's navy chief has warned the country to "prepare for the worst".

It is not clear what caused the blasts on the diesel and electricity-powered INS Sindhurakshak. An inquiry is under way and sabotage has not been ruled out, although officials say that looks unlikely at this stage.

Officials say divers aboard the submarine are working around the clock in difficult conditions. The vessel is filled with sea-water and the heat of the explosion also melted parts of the internal hull, deforming the submarine hatches and preventing access to compartments. Heavy duty pumps are being used to pump out water in order to help refloat the vessel.

As India marked Independence Day, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh expressed sorrow: "We are deeply pained that we lost the submarine INS Sindurakshak in an accident yesterday. Eighteen brave sailors are feared to have lost their lives," he said



The prime minister said it was all the more painful considering the navy's recent successes in launching a home-built submarine and acquiring a nuclear submarine.

Correspondents say that India has steadily developed its naval capabilities in recent years, motivated by its rivalry with neighbouring China, but not without setbacks.

Two huge explosions took place on board the INS Sindhurakshak after midnight on Tuesday. Firefighters spent four hours putting out the ensuing blaze. Dramatic images on Indian television showed a large fireball illuminating the sky. Smoke from the blaze could be seen in many parts of the city. Many sailors managed to jump to safety after the blast and some were taken to hospital.

The Russian-built vessel had recently been upgraded at a cost of \$80m (£52m) and it may have been armed with missiles and torpedoes.

Russian firm Zvyozdochka, which refitted the submarine, said the vessel had been fully operational when it was returned to India in January. On Wednesday Indian Defence Minister AK Antony visited the site. Describing the events as a "shocking tragedy", he offered his condolences to relatives of those who may have perished.

The INS Sindhurakshak is one of the 10 Kilo-class submarines bought from Russia between 1986 and 2000. It is equipped with Russian Club-S cruise missile systems. The submarine was sent to Russia for the refit in 2010 after a sailor on board was killed by a fire that broke out in the battery compartment while the submarine was docked at the Vishakhapatnam naval base in February that year.

Wednesday's explosions came two days after India's navy launched its first home-built aircraft carrier, hailed by defence officials as a "crowning glory". Although India can point to growing naval ambitions, correspondents say the country's military has encountered numerous scandals and difficulties. On Tuesday India's federal auditor suggested that the government might have paid too much for 12 helicopters from Anglo-Italian company Agusta Westland, saying procurement procedures designed to ensure value for money were not properly followed.

Last year, India bought a Russian Nerpa nuclear submarine for its navy on a 10-year lease from Russia at the cost of nearly \$1bn, making it part of a small group of nations to operate nuclear-powered submarines.

India and Russia are long-time allies and Russia supplies about 70% of India's military hardware.

HMS AGAMEMNON KEEL LAYING CEREMONY

North West Evening Mail Friday 19th July 2013

The 'Keel Laying' Ceremony for the 6th 'Astute' Class Submarine HMS AGAMEMNON took place in the BAE Shipyard in Barrow in Furness Thursday 18th July 2013'

Not only did staff, dignitaries and excited school children gather in Devonshire Dock Hall for the landmark keel-laying of AGAMEMNON boat six in the Astute Class programme but Philip Dunne, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, also confirmed the Government's commitment to commissioning the 'Successor' series of Submarines.



John Hudson, left, BAE Systems' managing director in Barrow, introduces Philip Dunne, Minister of Defence Equipment, Supplies and Technology, to staff at the Devonshire Dock Hall HARRY ATKINSON REF: 50051088B004



Photo from BBC Cumbria Website Such a move to replace the Trident nuclear missile vessels would ensure generations of work for Barrow shipyard, should the go-ahead be given in three years.

Mr Dunne's commitment followed a review from Danny Alexander, the Lib Dem Chief Secretary to the Treasury, which claimed there were alternatives to Britain's Trident nuclear deterrent, and prompted much political debate over the replacement of the 'Vanguard' class.

In his speech to the crowd, Mr Dunne said: "We should not forget to plan for the future and to the next class of Submarines and the replacement for Vanguard. As Defence Secretary Philip Hammond said this week, we must not gamble with Britain's security."

The keel-laying unveiled the first unit of AGAMEMNON's pressure hull, marking the transition from fabrication to major construction. After unveiling a commemorative plaque to a soundtrack of Rule Britannia, Mr Dunne told the Evening Mail: "Our position is very clear and when we come to make the Main Gate decision in 2016, this will secure the submarine enterprise here in Barrow for decades to come and sustain the high-skilled engineering jobs in Barrow and surrounding areas for this and subsequent generations."

John Hudson, BAE managing director in Barrow, said: "We understand that investment in strategic defence is a massive issue for the Government and it's appropriate the political debate takes place. "But being submarine builders, it's very reassuring to hear very strong support for the programme from the Defence Procurement Minister." Electrical designer Alex Tyson, 21, of Askam, has been at BAE for four years. He was at the ceremony, along with his dad Neil Tyson, the boat manager of AGAMEMNON.

Mr Tyson Jnr, who has worked on all the Astute class submarines and has now moved onto the Successor programme, said: "You kind of get used to it (the submarines), but I'm on Successor now and when you come in here it's still overwhelming seeing the size and capability of them."

MoD Confirms ASTUTE and AMBUSH 'Handover' as 'Keel Laid' on Sixth Submarine

From 'The Manufacturer' (published 18th July 2013 by James Pozzi)

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) today 18th July announced the handover of HMS ASTUTE and HMS AMBUSH to the Royal Navy as the keel for the sixth 'Astute' Class submarine was laid. Phillip Dunne MP, the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, made the announcement at BAE Systems' site in Barrow-in-Furness to announce the submarines have now been officially handed over to the Royal Navy.

Mr Dunne joined guests from BAE Systems, Royal Navy, MoD and local community for a ceremony at the home of UK nuclear submarine building, where he officially laid the keel for AGAMEMNON. He said: "The keel laying of the sixth submarine, AGAMEMNON, and the handover of HMS ASTUTE and HMS AMBUSH to the Royal Navy are huge milestones reflecting significant

progress in the programme." Mr Dunne added that a new contract signed between BAE Systems secure around 5,000 jobs at BAE Systems and thousands more who work in over 400 suppliers across the UK submarine supply chain."

Today's ceremony marked the start of the transition from preparation and fabrication to construction for AGAMEMNON. It also marked the start of a new contract between the Ministry of Defence and BAE Systems, which will help deliver the 'Astute' Class and pave the way for the future Successor nuclear deterrent submarines. The agreement will also help secure around 5,000 jobs at BAE Systems and thousands more who work in over 400 suppliers across the UK submarine supply chain.

John Hudson, managing director for BAE Systems Maritime – Submarines, said today marked an important milestone for the programme. "This is a very important milestone for the programme and, as we mark the first step in one submarine's construction, we also acknowledge the importance of HMS ASTUTE and HMS AMBUSH being handed over to the Royal Navy," he said. "These are highly effective submarines, engineered and built to provide the Royal Navy with unrivalled underwater capability. While AGAMEMNON has some way to go before it joins HMS ASTUTE and HMS AMBUSH it will one day form part of a formidable class of submarines.

Mr Hudson added: "Signing this contract underlines our commitment to SEPP and recognises our role as the lead contractor for the design and build of submarines for the Royal Navy. At the heart of it is the principle to collaborate with the MoD, Rolls Royce and Babcock in the delivery of this very complex programme."







WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Taunton Branch
27th June 2013
Dick Bowgen
L/Seaman GL
Aged 81
Submarine Service
Sleuth, Telemachus, Tactician,
Thorough, Thule, Springer

Sussex Branch
3rd July 2013
Geoff Wormald
LEM
Aged 81
Submarine Service
Scythian, Subtle, Solent,
Anchorite

Scotland North East 4th July 2013 John (Johanees) Thieme Aged 93 Submarine Service U35 of Kriegsmarine

Scotland North East
7th July 2013
James Moultrie
PO UC1
P/JX657028
Aged 82
Submarine Service
Sea Devil, Sidon, Alderney,
Totem, Anchorite, Tireless

Non Member 10th July 2013 Vic Silvester FCERA 076734 Aged 67 Submarine Service Odin

Portsmouth Branch
10th July 2013
Les Melvin MBE
Tel
Aged 77
Submarine Service
Trespasser, Trenchant

Nottingham Branch
13th July 2013
John Whittingham
CPO TASI
P/JX858140
Aged 81
Submarine Service
Alaric, Tiptoe, Walrus,
Rorqual & Renown



Plymouth Branch
18th July
Keith Prowse
AB(UW3)
P/J942200
Aged 74
Submarine Service
Otter

Canada
11th July 2013
Bill Hughes
Rear Admiral
Aged 86
Submarine Service

Colchester Branch
19th July 2013
John Allan (Shortly)
Featherstone
CPO Coxn
P/JX163497
Aged 90
Submarine Service
P555, Varangian, Upright,
Slueth, Tiptoe, Truncheon,
Sturdy, Sentinel, Trump,
Anchorite, Taciturn, Sea Devil

Dolphin Branch
19th July 2013
Mike Evans
Cdr (E)
Aged 77
Submarine Service
Explorer, Walrus,
Dreadnought, Revenge,
Renown

Gosport Branch
23rd July 2013
Rodney Frostic
CPO(OEL)
P/MX818108
Aged 82
Submarine Service
Truncheon, Finwhale, Otus
Amphion, Resolution, Alcide

Gatwick Branch
3rd August 2013
Alec Boyling
WO Coxn
Submarine Service
Artful, Ambush, Springer
Telemachus, Anchorite
Solent, Walrus, Auriga
Alaric, Alcide
Conqueror
Resolution



Submariner Officers Association 2nd August 2013 K S J (Ken) Dunlop, MiD Captain (E) Submarine Service 1942-1960 Taciturn, Ambush Alliance

Dolphin Branch
29th July 2013
Jim Pollard
AB (UC3)
C/JX556979
Aged 88
Submarine Service
H43, Turpin & Taurus

Morecambe Branch
3rd August 2013
Gerald Edmondson
PO Chef
DMX834059
Aged 84
Submarine Service
Alcide, Alderney, Thule, Selene
Tactician, Thorough
Telemachus

Submarine Officers Association
4th August
Sir John Forster 'Sandy'
Woodward, GBE, KCB
Admiral
Aged 81
Submarine Service 1954-1985
Sanguine, Tabard, Porpoise(IL),
Tireless (CO), Grampus(CO),
Valiant(IL), Warspite(CO)
Fosm 1983-1985

Submarine Officers Association August 2013 Ian David George Franklin Captain (E) Submarine Service

Submarine Officers Association 8th August 2013 Aylmer Harvey Alexander Commander (MESM) Aged 80 Submarine Service

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.



Indian-built Arihant nuclear submarine activated



India has activated the reactor on board the INS Arihant nuclear submarine, the first to be designed and built in India.

The move means the submarine can now undergo sea trials.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh hailed the "giant stride in... our indigenous technological capabilities".

Experts say is the first ballistic missile submarine known to have been built outside the five recognised nuclear powers

Last year, India rejoined those countries - the US, UK, France, Russia and China - in being an operator of nuclear-powered submarines when it formally commissioned a Russian-built submarine into its navy.

Nuclear submarines will add a third dimension to India's defence capability, as it has previously only been able to launch ballistic missiles from the air and from land.

Assuming its sea trials are completed successfully, India's new nuclear-powered submarine could be operational within the next two years, the BBC's Jonathan Marcus reports.

Do You Remember

Runs in Gib
The Clachan
Part III's





W.McLaughlin03/08 J.Rogers 05/08 P. Andrew 05/08 A. West 09/08 M.McCormick 10/08 B.Hagen 10/08 B. Church 16/08 E.Budgen 18/08 D.Parsons 18/08 M.Speedie 20/08 D. Harwood 21/08 K. Mullen 25/08 D.Sales 29/08

www.astuteclass.com

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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 August for the September 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

September

Branch Meeting in the RBL

Tuesday 3rd at 2000

FIRST & LAST

Hms/m Seal. The first British Submarine to be captured by the Germans, 1940 (Became U-4).

Hms/m Sickle. The last British Submarine to be sank in the Mediterranean.



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 again based on submariner slang expressions.

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. DIT
- 2. MANKING
- 3. BUFFS
- 4. RACK
- 5. BAGGED OUT
- **6. SHAKE**

- 7. SCRAN
- 8. SNORKER
- 9. NORMAN
- 10. YELLOW PERIL
- 11. SLIDE
- 12. GOOF



Last month's wordsquare solution (below)

| L | A | R | W | H | R | E | M | M | I | K | S |
|---|---|---|----|----|------------------|----|----|-----|-----|----|---|
| | | | I | | | | | | | | |
| R | T | H | G | G | A | L | O | Þ | (A) | XI | P |
| S | E | A | S | Α | K | G | F | Œ, | M | S | Q |
| T | C | L | В | В | F | Ę | 14 | 19/ | 7) | C | H |
| R | U | D | L | N | 0 | Œ, | 1 | 1 | | W | S |
| E | O | Y | Α | 1 | Ĺ, | A | Ļ | N | R | 1 | В |
| | | | Ø | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | E |) | ₿ | N/ | | 1 | Ø | | L | В | 0 |
| P | Ų | 0 | B | B | X | K | Α | В | N | L | B |
| P | B | G | A | X | \triangleright | Y | L | K | N | E | W |
| 0 | R | E | 1(| R | A | B | 0 | D | A | C | A |



PRIVATE LANGUAGE There are submariner expressions for all kinds of people, objects and events – see if you can find the 12 we have hidden in the wordsquare. The picture shows washing facilities on the Barrowbuilt *HMS Superb* in 1976