



50th Anniversary ▪ 1963 - 2013



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newsletter

Submariners Association ▪ Barrow-in-Furness Branch Newsletter ▪ Issue 161 ▪ November 2013



The November Word

This is the start of a pretty busy period for us especially over the next couple of weeks. This coming Sunday 3rd Nov sees many attending the National Submarine Memorial on the



London Embankment. If last year is anything to go by there will be about 300+ submariner veterans, about 80 odd serving submariners, new entrants from HMS Raleigh plus the Royal Marine band.

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Contents: 2 - The Chairman 3 - Riachuelo 4 - The Social & Branch Secretary
5 - USA SSN Shortage 6 - Tattoos 7 - Obituaries 8 - General Info 9 - Quiz



Add to that RASM, Admiral the Lord Boyce, Sir James Perowne plus a horde of other admirals and lesser ranking officers and it is an impressive display. This year will be the first time that the Memorial Service will be conducted by a veteran submariner who is now a fully fledged Padre and our newly recruited Association Padre. His name is Rev Paul Jupp an ex Tiffy and WEO who some of you will surely remember. If the weather holds it is a really good spectacle to witness.

Nearer home we have of course the annual Ladies Night on Friday 8th November at the Chequers Hotel in Dalton. I am sure that Alex Webb will say more about it in his monthly dit so nuff said from me.

Next of course is the Remembrance Day Parade. This year will be slightly different for us as we will also be holding a brief ceremony at the AE1 & 2 Memorial prior to the parade. This will be at 10.00 to give us time to then get to the Town Hall in time for the march off. If you wish to march to the Cenotaph in the park then please muster no later than 10.15 at the Town Hall. After the Remembrance Service and wreath laying at the Cenotaph we will march back to the RBL in Holker Street for refreshments, pie and peas and of course hold our own unique Submarine Remembrance. A real tear jerker if you haven't witnessed it before. Of course, no remembrance event would be complete without a tot and after missing out last year it will be back on this year. If you wish to attend but are unable to march then transport has been arranged.

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

The Co-operative Funeral Care have once again given us two limousines to pick up anyone who wishes to attend the Cenotaph from their home, take them to the park and on completion of the service take them either back to their home or to the RBL as required. If you wish to take up this offer then contact Dave Barlow urgently so that arrangements can be finalised.

On Monday 28th October I was privileged to attend the K2B Awards evening in the Forum and on behalf of the branch received a cheque for £700 to allow us to continue our good works within the branch and in and around the community. Katie Henderson of GSK presented the cheque to the branch. Overall a fantastic £340,288 was distributed to 244 charities and good causes plus bonus gift aid packages totalling £50,000, which was 9.4% up on last year. During the day we were invited to have a stall in the Forum to demonstrate what we are about, what we do and how we use the donation we receive from the K2B. I am indebted to those who turned up to help but in particular, Barrie Downer who was instrumental in setting up

the display, Terry Spurling for arranging the display boards and then generally getting in the way (sorry Terry) and Mick Mailey who was our liaison with the K2B committee. Also to those who manned the stall during the day and the evening. Thanks to you all.

A couple of jokes to finish off.

Scientists have revealed that beer contains traces of female hormones.

To prove their theory, the scientists fed 100 men 12 pints of beer and observed that 100% of them gained weight, talked excessively without making sense, became emotional and couldn't drive. No further testing is planned.

The French policeman stops this car and asks the Submariner if he has been drinking. With great difficulty, he admits that he has been drinking all day, that his daughter got married in the morning to a Frenchman, and that he drank champagne and a couple bottles of wine at the reception and quite a few glasses of Pusser's Rum afterwards.



Quite outraged, the policeman asks the Submariner if he knows why he has just been arrested and proceeds to carry out a breathalyser test. With humour, the Submariner answers:

Pardon me Monsieur Gendarme I don't want to be rude but you do know that this is a British car and that my wife is driving..... on the right side???

Finally don't forget that at the November branch meeting we will be continuing our good work by making three donations. Who to? Turn up and see and also enjoy a tot of the original navy rum kindly donated by Mrs Jenkins, David's widow.

A reminder that Ben, our newsletter editor, finishes with the Christmas issue. I am still looking for a volunteer. Could it be you?

Regards

Dave Barlow

Branch Chairman





Barrow Submarine Series: issue number 54 **Riachuelo**



LAST PATROL: The Barrow-built *Riachuelo* is now a museum exhibit in Brazil

THE Barrow-built Oberon-class submarine *Riachuelo* was laid down for the Brazilian navy in April 1973 and launched in June 1975.

Riachuelo (S22) was commissioned for service with Brazil in March 1977.

The boat is now displayed at the Navy Cultural Centre in Rio de Janeiro after being decommissioned in December 1997.

Before that, the submarine had covered 181,924 miles on patrols in 1,283 days – spending 17,699 hours submerged.

It was given a modernisation in 1995 by the company HDW/Ferrostal.

The submarine was named after a naval battle which took place on June 11 in 1865, during the Paraguay War between the Paraguayan and Brazilian fleets.

The Brazilian forces were commanded by Admiral Barroso.

STATS:

Displacement: Surface 2,030 tons, submerged 2,410 tons

Length: 295.2 ft (90 m)

Beam: 26.5 ft (8.1 m)

Crew: 70 officers and men

Speed: Surface 12 kn (22 km/h), submerged 17 kn (31 km/h)

Range: 9,000 nmi (17,000 km) at 12 kn (22 km/h) surfaced

Propulsion: : 2 Admiralty Standard Range 16WS – ASR diesels, 2 electric generators and 2 electric motors

Armament: 8 x 21-inch (530 mm) torpedo tubes (6 bow, 2 stern).



ON SHOW: An interior view of the Oberon-class submarine *Riachuelo* which was launched at Barrow in June 1975



Social Secretary Alex Webb



I have been busy this month organising the Ladies night dinner dance; we have 92 confirmed now. It is going to be a great evening.

Also I have been producing a plan of events for next year; booking venues, coaches and producing a social calendar for you to carry around with you. The calendar contains all the events I have organised plus the dates of the memorials and membership weekends.

Diary Check

Fri 8th Nov Ladies Night -formal black tie event-
This is now closed and I look forward to updating you on the fun we had next month.

Sat 7th Dec End of year annual Christmas party,
disco, 3 piece rock and roll band, food and all the festive entertainment fun I can muster. Cost of the first 100 tickets (member plus one guest) is going to be met by the Association. So, in effect, this is a free function to those attending. I will have the tickets at the next 2 meetings; I will be taking names of those who I issue the 'free' tickets to for catering purposes. Please only take these tickets if you are attending. Any further tickets required by an individual will be £2:50 or £3 on the door.

The first event for 2014 is the 'First Footing' to Morecambe; first Friday in February, so please give some thought to this and give me a heads up if you are coming along this time.

I would like to give you advance notice of the Members Dinner I am organising for April 2014; it is going to be run like a mess dinner (albeit ladies are invited). There will be first class food, lots of alcohol and talking. There will not be any entertainment/disco, just good old fashioned chatting, speeches and laughing. This event is aimed specifically at the members who showed an interest in an event that doesn't necessitate the need for a female companion or being able to dance like John Travolta. It is limited to 50 (due to space) so will be on a first come first served basis (which includes payment for the event).

The members draw for October was not won so November's pot stands at £10. Remember all you have to do to win it is be there and have paid your membership fees.

I went into a fireworks shop the other day in preparation for Fireworks Night and asked if rockets had a sell by date on, when asked why I replied 'I didn't want them to go off'!!!! Keep Smiling.

Alex Webb

Branch Secretary Ron Hiseman



Welcome to the November newsletter and so another year is rapidly coming to an end and soon the festive season will be upon us. I missed last month's newsletter due to relaxing in the sun with our Vice Chairman and the wives. A good time was had and we returned refreshed for the push to the New Year.

This month is remembrance month with the remembrance parade on Sunday 10th November. Muster at the Town Hall at 1015 for a 1030 march off. We have requested an eyes left at the AE1/AE2 memorial and at Coronation Gardens. Following the service you are welcome at the RBL where pie and peas have been purchased by the Branch. We are planning something slightly different for the memory of all submariners and we will let you know if it is going to happen at the November meeting.

As the year is coming to an end it also means that if you have any changes you would like to see to the National rules then these have to be approved by the branch at the December meeting so they can be at National by December 31st. So if you have any ideas please pass to a member of the Committee by 29th November.

It was raised at the last meeting if the Branch had received any reply from the Town Hall regarding the matter of the Mayoral Sunday. I can confirm that we have received nothing official regarding our complaint and will be offering a further letter follow up letter for the Branch to approve.

Also at the November meeting we shall be presenting 3 cheques totalling £1200 to local charities, hopefully the NWEM will be there to record the night and for those of you who can make it the tot will be with real Pussers rum. See you at the meeting.

Ron Hiseman





Coping With The Great American SSN Shortage

After the Cold War ended in 1991, the U.S. Navy got the Congress to agree that the United States required an SSN (nuclear attack sub) fleet of at least 48 boats. Since the 1990s, increased submarine construction by Russia and China means that number is apparently safe for now. But because only 2 new American SSNs were built in the 1990s, the current SSN force of 55 boats will drop to about 40, before recovering in the 2030s. The cause is the sharp cut in SSN construction in the 1990s, the fact that it takes over 5 years to build each new SSN, and the older Los Angeles SSNs approaching the end of their useful lives (33 years) meant that the force of available SSNs is shrinking. The navy is trying to reduce the shortage by speeding up construction of new Virginia class SSNs (from about six years to five), extend the life of some Los Angeles class boats by a few years, and base some SSNs in the Western Pacific (Guam) to shorten the time needed to get to where they are needed (the coast of China and Russia as the main Chinese sub base is on Hainan Island and Russia's is north of Japan on the Kamchatka Peninsula).



This year the navy has received the tenth of 30 Virginia class SSNs. That was the USS Minnesota (SSN 783), which arrived 11 months ahead of schedule and is the last of 10 Block II Virginias. In 2008, the navy got its fifth Virginia 8 months ahead of schedule and under budget as well. The Virginias are taking less time to build and are arriving at the rate of 1 a year. That will increase to 1 or 2 a year over the next decade.

The Virginias cost about \$2.2 billion each. They displace 7,800 tons, are 114.9 meters (377 feet) long, and 10.36 meters (34 feet) wide. Top speed is over 50 kilometers an hour, max depth is more than 250 meters (over 800 feet). The Virginians are armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles (in 12 vertical launching tubes) and four 53.3 cm (21 inch) torpedo tubes that can fire MK 48 torpedoes or deploy naval mines.

More important are the large number of electronic systems carried. These make the Virginias more difficult to detect and much better at detecting

what is out there, which enables these subs to be more effective at espionage and scouting. The electronics can also quickly detect and identify incoming torpedoes and rapidly use counter measures. The passive (listen only) sonar system is backed by a huge library of sounds. Virginias are also designed to operate in shallow waters and carry a SEAL Delivery Vehicle (sort of a minibus for getting SEALs ashore) on the deck of the sub. With a dozen or so SEALs on board a Virginia will be carrying nearly 150 people.

Virginia's nuclear reactors are the new type that does not have to be refueled, having sufficient nuclear material to last 33 years. The reactors generate enough heat to provide 40,000 horsepower, as well as ample electricity for all the electronics. The block II models used less costly construction techniques, while the 8 Block III boats will have some design changes and new technology.

The U.S. currently has three classes of SSN. Most are the 6,900 ton Los Angeles-class SSNs. 62 of these submarines were built and 41 are still in service. Armed with 4 53.3 cm torpedo tubes, they carry 26 weapons for those tubes (either the Mk 48 torpedoes or BGM-109 Tomahawk cruise missiles). The last 31 Los Angeles-class SSNs built added the Mk 45 vertical-launch system (VLS), which carries another twelve Tomahawks. If built today these late model Los Angeles class boats would cost about \$1.5 billion each. The first of these entered service in 1976, and the last one in 1996. These boats can last 30-35 years before they must be retired or undergo extensive (over half a billion dollars' worth) of refurbishment and refueling. This can take 4-5 years and will keep the sub going for another 10-15 years. The navy is seeking enough money from Congress to refurb some of the elderly Los Angeles class boats and prevent the SSN fleet from shrinking below 45 boats.

29:9,000 ton Seawolf-class SSNs were supposed to replace the Los Angeles boats but Seawolf proved too expensive, and that problem was one of the main reasons for the lack of new SSNs in the 1990s. Only 3 Seawolfs were built. The Seawolf was designed for the Cold War, carrying 50 weapons (torpedoes, cruise missiles, or Harpoon anti-ship missiles) for its 8 660 mm (26-inch) torpedo tubes. Seawolf was fast (top speed of over 60 kilometers an hour) and much quieter than the Los Angeles boats. To replace the un-built Seawolfs the Virginia-class was designed. Think of it as a Los Angeles size hull with a lot of Seawolf technology installed. The Virginia class boats ended up costing about half as much as the Seawolfs. But that was largely possible because the Virginias used a lot of the new technology developed for Seawolf.



Tattoos

I am working on a new primetime four-part Channel 4 beauty series fronted by Katie Piper. There is going to be a social history strand to the series, with each episode exploring a different theme. For one episode in particular, we are covering the history of tattoos in the UK.

I'm currently looking for two or more friends that decided to get tattoos in the 1950s/60s/70s - be that together or at similar times. Perhaps it was as a symbol of their friendship or one decided to get a tattoo and the rest followed suit.

From what I can understand, tattooing was quite common in the Navy so I was wondering whether you could help spread the word amongst your members be that in a newsletter, any social networking sites etc in the hope that this may be of interest to someone?

What we are looking to do is a fairly short sequence where our presenter Katie Piper meets them and finds out about their story and experience, their motivations for doing it etc. It's very much a positive, celebratory piece about tattoos - we've already organised filming with a lady that got tattoos back in the early 1960s and also one of the UK's oldest living tattoo artists as part of this history strand. I'm not sure whether you are familiar with Katie Piper, but she was involved in a tragic acid attack and Channel 4 has previously covered her road to recovery.

If you'd like any further information, please do get in touch. My direct line is 0208 222 4690.

As is always the way in TV, we are working to tight deadlines with this! So it would be brilliant if I could get some feedback sooner rather than later.

Any help you could give would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

Emma

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Excerpts from an article in August "Navy News" this was accompanied with a photo of the Navy contingent.

Sailors parade with Pride

Royal Navy personnel donned ceremonial uniforms and displayed their operational medals as they marched through the streets of the Capital for London Pride. Leading the armed forces contingent the 22 sailors marched past the cheering crowds for the 42nd gay parade festivities with Lt Dougie Ward, the Naval Service's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Forum Chair, at the head of the squadron.

Around 15,000 people joined the march and more than 500,000 watched from the sidelines. Cdre Rupert Wallace, the RN LGBT diversity champion was one of those who cheered on the Navy from the sidelines. "We are delighted and proud that the Royal Navy values inclusion at all levels and that our people feel free and confident to be themselves" he said.

Oh dear !!, How things have changed.

MANURE

In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything had to be transported by ship and it was also before the invention of commercial fertilizers, so large shipments of manure were quite common.

It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet, but once water (at sea) hit it, not only did it become heavier, but the process of fermentation began again, of which a by product is methane gas of course. As the stuff was stored below decks in bundles you can see what could (and did) happen. Methane began to build up below decks and the first time someone came below at night with a lantern, BOOOOM!

Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening. After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the instruction 'Stow high in transit' on them, which meant for the sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this volatile cargo and start the production of methane.

Thus evolved the term 'S.H.I.T', (Stow High In Transit) which has come down through the centuries and is in use to this very day.

You probably did not know the true history of this word.

Neither did I.
I had always thought it was a golf term.



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Non Member
3rd October 2013
Derek Saville
MEA (P)
Aged 79

Submarine Service
Subtle, Scotsman, Excalibur
Dreadnought, Resolution
Renown & Repulse

Australia Branch
5th October 2013
John Curtain
WO Coxn
Aged 77

Submarine Service
Token, Tiptoe, Cachalot
Ocelot, Oxley & Otway

Merseyside Branch
8th October 2013
Ramsey "Harry" Harrison
POLTO
C/JX158556
Aged 90
Submarine Service
H50, H51, Seawolf, P554
Auriga

Non Member
7th October
Thomas Harry Green
CDR
Aged 80
Submarine Service
Seneschal, Acheron,
Sea Devil, Token, Orpheus,
Tireless, Totem, Rorqual, Res-
olution & Repulse

North Staffs Branch
12th October 2013
Cyril Bowden
Stoker
D/KX165957
Aged 90
Submarine Service
Virtue

Australia Branch
15th October 2013
Glenn Pierce
LSTS
Aged 55
Submarine Service
Otway & Orion

Submarine Officers Association
25th October 2013
Captain
Michael Henry (Mike) Everett
Aged 79
Submarine Service 1956-1985
Truncheon, Teredo, Acheron (IL)
Totem (CO), Onyx (CO),
Renown (P) (CO), Captain SM1

Gosport Branch
21st October 2013
Peter Dollarmore
CPO REL
P/MX842139
Aged 89
Submarine Service
Anchorite, Acheron, Aeneas
Token & Truncheon

Gosport Branch
15th October 2013
Eric Norman Teasdale
CPO ME
Submarine Service
Aeneas, Tally-Ho, Artemis
Tactician, Seraph, Aurochs
Telemachus & Trump

Dolphin Branch
22nd October 2013
Gordon Grosse
POEL
P/M941005
Aged 75
Submarine Service
Scotsman, Sealion, Orpheus

Dolphin Branch
15th October 2013
Julian Simon Burrage
Lt Cdr
Aged 86
Submarine Service
Tiptoe, Tireless, Sentinel

Australia Branch
25th October 2013
Petty Officer Telegraphist
John (Jack) Edward Roberts
C/SSX 29882
Aged 92
Submarine Service 1942-1946
L26, Truant, O19 (Liason)
Trenchant

*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 there memories
alive.*


**A LITTLE LIGHT RELIEF!
THE 2013 DARWIN AWARDS**
RUNNER UP?

Kerry Bingham had been drinking with several friends when one of them said they knew a person who had bungee jumped from a local bridge in the middle of traffic. The conversation grew more excited and at least 10 men trooped along the walkway of the bridge at 4:30 AM. Upon arrival at the midpoint of the bridge they discovered that no one had brought a bungee rope. Bingham, who had continued drinking, volunteered and pointed out that a coil of lineman's cable lay nearby. They secured one end around Bingham's leg and then tied the other to the bridge. His fall lasted 40 feet before the cable tightened and tore his foot off at the ankle. He miraculously survived his fall into the icy water and was rescued by two nearby fishermen. Bingham's foot was never located.

AND THE WINNER IS....?

Zookeeper Friedrich Riesfeldt (Paderborn, Germany) fed his constipated elephant 22 doses of animal laxative and more than a bushel of berries, figs and prunes before the plugged-up pachyderm finally got relief. Investigators say ill-fated Friedrich, 46, was attempting to give the ailing elephant an olive oil enema when the relieved beast unloaded. The sheer force of the elephant's unexpected defecation knocked Mr. Riesfeldt to the ground where he struck his head on a rock as the elephant continued to evacuate 200 pounds of dung on top of him. It seems to be just one of those freak accidents that proves... 'Sh*t happens'

IT ALWAYS SEEMS
IMPORTANT TO THANK
THESE PEOPLE FOR
REMOVING THEMSELVES
FROM THE GENE POOL but
remember they walk among us!





The Eternal Poppy



In the grey days of November,
When the clock selects the hour,
We see their dear old faces,
In the little poppy flower.

How strange it seems, a humble
weed,
Would bring a life to mind,
And by its decree its blessed seed,
Would petal-coat a shrine.

In the grey days of November,
When the guns salute the hour,
We the living, praise the dead,
With the little poppy flower.

The first official Legion Poppy Day was held in Britain on 11 November 1921, inspired by the poem *In Flanders' Fields* written by John McCrae. Since then the Poppy Appeal has been a key annual event in the nation's calendar

GOOGLE

Ever wonder what it's like to wander the narrow corridors of a 50-year-old Oberon-class British submarine? Well, you can now embark on a digital tour of the HMS Ocelot via Street View, which has become the first submersible to be fully documented by Google. Even without its backpack-worn trekker units, the company has mapped-out the Ocelot's complex control room, restricted sleeping quarters and even its six torpedo tubes, which have thankfully been out of service for more than 20 years. It also lets you take a tour of the dockyard from which the submarine was launched. Hit up Google Street View to begin your personal guided tour, just be sure to mind your head when navigating those hatches.

Do You Remember

The Klaxon
Portland Running
The RNA in Gosport

November 2013
Members Birthdays

J. Brutton	02/11
G. Hockey	03/11
D. Duncombe	08/11
P. Smith	08/11
T. Schofield	09/11
D. Fry	11/11
S. Brough	13/11
V. Hutton	16/11
S. Miles	17/11
G. Clark	18/11
B. Keen	18/11
M. Pointer	18/11
M. Davenport	22/11
M. Lacey	22/11
N. Lambert	27/11
M. Allen	30/11
T. Wood	29/11
T. Janes	29/11
J. Thomas	30/11

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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 November for the December 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

November

Branch Meeting

in the

RBL

Tuesday 5th at 2000

FIRST & LAST

6th July 1905, the French Farfadet submerged before her hatch was fully secure and went to the bottom in seconds.

The last VC presented with the Naval ribbon was presented to the Widow of CPO GH Prowse VC,DCM on the 17th July 1919



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 submarines which were built at Barrow.

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. CHURCHILL
2. TRENCHANT
3. TORBAY
4. VANGUARD
5. REPULSE
6. OSIRIS
7. SCEPTRE
8. ANDREW
9. TALENT
10. WARSPITE
11. AMBUSH
12. DREADNOUGHT

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



WAVING OFF: James, Sarah (centre) and Vicky, the children of Petty Officer Myke Kettleton, say goodbye to *Trenchant* on February 9 in 1989. *Trenchant* is one of the 12 submarine names which we have hidden in the wordsquare. See if you can find them all

Last month's wordsquare solution (below)

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