



PERISCOPE VIEW

The Newsletter of the Barrow-in Furness Branch
of the
Submariners Association

Patron: Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL

Issue No: 169

www.submarinersassociation.co.uk

July 2014



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Cover Picture:

Standard Bearers at the Barrow in Furness Armed Forces Day Flag Raising Ceremony

EDITORIAL

Your July edition of Up Periscope is here! Thank you all those Branch Members who attended the Tri Service Veterans Day Flag Raising Ceremony at the Town Hall on Monday 23rd June. The number of Veterans attending this year was slightly down on last year but there was a large platoon from HMS ARTFUL to boost up the numbers. The weather was fine and sunny and this occasion was the first time Gordon Walker paraded the Branch Standard – and he got his photo on the front page of the North West Evening Mail! The whole ceremony went off well and we all then trooped into the Town Hall for tea, coffee and biscuits. The Mayor also presented the Branch with a framed Barrow Town Crest which we will need to find a home for.

Apart from the Flag Raising Ceremony it has been a very quiet month but as you will see from the Social Secretary's report he has got plenty more planned for us over the next few months.

This edition included the last of the WWI Submarine Victoria Cross articles. Next Month I will start with the WWII Submarine Victoria Crosses and, hopefully after that, I will move on to Submarine Conspicuous Gallantry Medal holders. The Picture on Page 12 is not of the Devonshire Dock Hall but the Russian equivalent in St Petersburg and shows the 'Roll Out' of the Russian Submarine ROSTOV ON DON at the Admiralteiskiye Verfy Ship Yard in St Petersburg. The Submarine in the foreground is still fitted with a seven bladed skew propeller – are there no propulsors in use in the Russian Navy?

Once more I have been receiving contributions for inclusion in the Newsletter – Mary Wetton has sent in an article from Dorset about the HMS SIDON Memorial and Peter Schofield has sent in items about World War II 'Warship Weeks' – Peter will be sending more items in so I hope to make his items a monthly series. Thanks very much for this support- and I will include all contributions but not all at the same time. Please enjoy your Branch Newsletter and don't forget that you too can help by sending in your contributions and any comments you think relevant – polite ones only – of course!

Regards

Barrie Downer

CHAIRMAN'S DIT – JULY 2014





I was very pleased to have been invited as a National Hon Vice President to attend the unveiling of the Naval Service Memorial (see above) at the National Arboretum. I, along with Jim McMaster (National Chairman) and our wives travelled down to Burton on the Saturday where we stayed overnight. We took the opportunity to meet up with Bernard Quinlan of Tuna and Cockleshell Heroes fame for a meal that evening. As usual Bernard was in fine form regaling us with submarine dits from the yesteryear. Although just turned 90 he is still as sharp as ever. Sunday morning we had the short trip to the Arboretum where we met up with Gill Molyneux (widow of Lt Ian Molyneux of Astute) and the four children. The eldest son is hoping to join the RN at Dartmouth in September and follow in his fathers' footsteps. The unveiling of the memorial was carried out by HRH Prince Michael of Kent, aided by both the First and Second Sea Lords. The parade and service was excellent and I was particularly pleased to see our National Standard and quite a number of branch standards on display along with many Submariners Association members primarily from the local branches. The parade of standards is the largest I have ever witnessed. I didn't count them but there must have been over a 100. Add to that a marching contingent of I would say about 500+ RNA and others and it made for a great spectacle. The official estimate was around 1500 present. The memorial itself is very modern and most unlike the traditional memorials we have come to expect. It is essentially a number very tall coloured glass panels representing the 5 oceans, the colours representing the different naval factions and a red one representing the blood spilled during the various naval battles and wars. To one side is a statue of a sailor facing west into the setting sun with head bowed. Apparently on a sunny day and at a certain time of day the sun shines through the panels and casts a shadow depicting a warship on the patio area in front of the memorial. Because of the crowds I was unable to get a decent photo but if you are

in that area then take time out to visit, as it is a lovely memorial. On conclusion of the service we were invited to the VVIP Marque where we were introduced to the Prince and the other dignitaries. He asked after Dudley of course. All in all an excellent weekend and one I am glad not to have missed.

On Friday 6th I, along with a large contingent of branch members plus many other submariners and colleagues from BAE, attended the funeral of Terry Pyne's son who was also a submariner. Although not a member he was well known within BAE and in the locality. I have since received a letter from Terry thanking the branch for their attendance at his son's funeral.

A reminder that if you want to attend the mixed reunion at Runcorn in September then I need your applications by the end of July please. If you have lost the bumf and application that has been previously sent out then please give me a call and I will send another set.

On Sunday 3rd August the three service veteran associations will be holding a service to commemorate the beginning of World War one. The format is the same as on Remembrance Sunday. Muster at the town hall at 10.10 ready to march off at 10.30. March to the Cenotaph in the park, a short commemoration service then march back to the RBL for refreshments. Pie and Peas are available for £2 per head. The branch has bought 50 up front so see Mick Mailey if you want them. There will also be entertainment by the Steelworks band. If there is anyone who wants to attend but cannot march then if the numbers warrant it I will ask for a car as I do for Remembrance Sunday to pick you up at your home, take you to the Cenotaph, thence to either back home or the RBL.

Well that's all for now.

Dave

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Hello

It looks like summer has arrived and the last month has been great on the weather front. Long may it last or at least right through to the barbeque. Last month the Her Majesty the Queen graciously bestowed the honour of Admiral of the Fleet to Admiral the Lord Boyce KG, KCB, OBE, DL. The Branch has sent our congratulations to Lord Boyce.

This weekend has seen celebrations up and down the country in support of Armed Forces Day. Barrow held its celebrations last Monday when the Town Hall flew the Armed Forces flag over the Town Hall.

This Thursday Brisbane Park carnival is being held and the Head teacher has asked if the Branch can support the event by marching with the children. The event starts at 1300 and should take no more than 30 minutes. If you can spare some time and support the event please contact the Chairman.

Finally on the 9th July Exercise Live RC will be taking place in Barrow at the College and if you can spare 90 minutes to be an evacuee please let me know. There is no specific age range so the whole family can take part. I will now let you go back to enjoying the sunshine and hope to see you on Tuesday.

Regards **Ron**



Hi Shipmates,

June has been a quiet month with very little to report except that the World Cup Sweepstake is ongoing with the last 16 now through to the knock out stage.

Diary Check:

Next event is the annual Cartmel trip on Saturday 19th July, luxury travel to and from Cartmel picks up from: The Ferry at 11:50, Ormsgill, RBL at 1200, Strawberry, Crofters, Dalton & Ulverston. Returning for 7pm: Cost £12:50 (does not include entry cost). I have already filled up my 37 seated coach so have upgraded to a 53

seated and have only 15 places left. Good day out with the chance of winning big at one of the most picturesque race courses in the UK.

Saturday 2nd August is the annual BBQ, to be held at Crofters from 2 – 7. Cost is £5 per person (under 3 years old are free). Standard nosebag with quality entertainer, music, face painting, ice lollies, raffle, games, prizes and a good laugh to be had by all. The bar (as last year) will be situated outside at cheaper prices to those inside. Please support this event, tickets are now on sale. As always at the meetings I run a raffle and the members (free) draw which was won in June by Ian McIntyre so July we are back to £5. All you have to do to win is be there, have paid your subs and get your number drawn – easy, ask Kenny, Hugh, Bob, Peter, or Ian.

Join in and have fun.

Alex Webb
Social Secretary

HMS ONYX (Update IV)

The fate of HMS ONYX now appears to have been sealed. The Submarine still lies alongside the jetty at the breakers yard in the Gareloch but the removal of the batteries has apparently been completed – but not by the designated 'battery removal routes' but by cutting away the hull and casing in way to allow easier access.

You will have seen various E mails from the National Secretary giving contact details for requesting souvenir items from the boat – but at a cost! The discussions between the current owners and the Greenock Team obviously came to nothing but whether their intention to

salvage and display the Bows of the boat at Greenock remains to be seen.

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NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Do you have a story to tell or have information you feel should appear in the Newsletter then ring Barrie Downer on 01229 820963 or if you wish to send me an article my postal address is listed above under Committee Members. You may also send your contribution by e-mail to me barrie@downer55.freemove.co.uk. Come on – every Submariner has a story to tell – some more than one! Let's see yours in print!

Constructive suggestions about the newsletter are also very welcome. The newsletter will be published in the last week of each month i.e. the last week in July for the August 2014 issue. Please ensure you have any information with me by the 15th of each month to ensure its inclusion in the next issue. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition – keep them stories coming

SUBMARINERS & FOOTBALL

Ian Walsh thought the following would be of interest to Branch Members. Most boats at least tried to muster a football team and with the limited size of the crews in those days producing a no mean feat. HMS MAIDSTONE, 3rd Submarine Squadron and HMS NEPTUNE in his days there (1963-70) had some very successful seasons. Ian himself was in teams which won the local Helensburgh & Gareloch League, the Helensburgh Advertiser Cup and three Coronation Cups - contested by all Ships & Establishments in the Scottish Command. Several times Ian represented the RN Scotland team in their annual games against the Army, RAF & Edinburgh and St Andrews Universities.



Photo of the 1963-64 HMS ORPHEUS team after losing 2-0 to HMS ROOKE in Gibraltar

The names are as Ian recalls are:

Back Row (L to R): M.E. (Scouse) Hamilton, R.O. (Clarkey) Clarke, R.O. (Scouse) Catterall (believed to be a member of Merseyside Branch), E.M. (Stormy bastard) Ian Walsh (Barrow Branch), A.B.(unknown)

Middle Row (L to R): A.B. (Mick) Arthurs (RCN)- he did like a drink & didn't play that day & he was also the first person Ian saw that could afford a pair of George Best football boots in white leather!!! Unfortunately they didn't help him perform quite the same!!!, M.E.(Buster) Brown (West of Scotland Branch), L.E.M. (Buck) Taylor, L.M.E. Tony Byles, (died in a car accident in the 1960s), ERA (Jacko) Jackson

Front Row (L to R): M.E. (Ginge) Reid (Dundee), E.M. Ken (Ruby) Ayres (Ulverston)

L.E.M. (Lofty) Sibbit (Barrow Branch) was known to turn out on odd occasions -mainly on the Faslane quarry car park 'five a side' or on the All Weather (red blaize) pitches to which his size 12 steaming boots seemed most adapted.

M.E. Ted (Budgie) Budgen (Barrow Branch) never turned out because they now had a proper goalkeeper, and anyway as the Squadrons M.E.'s Storekeeper he'd be too busy checking no one had nicked one of his 500 1/4 spring washers !!!!.

In all five of that crew (all non Barrovians) either due to work or women have since lived in the Barrow area the only one not mentioned above was Cook Bob (Baby Chef) Leithhead is believed to have moved back to Hawick..



Photo of the HMS MAIDSTONE (3rd Submarine Squadron) team pictured after winning the Helensburgh Advertiser Cup 5-1

Ian Walsh & REM (Sherry) Sherris (HMS OSIRIS) also represented RN Scotland. Sherris is on Ian's left in the Back Row and were the only submariners in the Team

The Submariners Association Patron Promoted!

Several Years ago the Ministry of Defence – as a savings measure – decided to do away with 'Five Star' Ranks for the three Services. This led to the situation whereby the Head of the Armed Services in the form of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) was of the same Rank as the individual Heads of the three Services - who were nominally subordinate to the CDS. It seems that this anomaly has now been rectified and the past three Chiefs of the Defence Staff have been promoted to

Honorary Five Star rank. As a result the Patron of the Submariners Association becomes Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce KG, GCB, OBE, DL.

This was announced in the following letter from the Naval Secretary:

**From Rear Admiral Jonathan Woodcock OBE
Naval Secretary**



Navy Command Headquarters

Mail Point 3.1

Leach Building

Whale Island

Portsmouth

PO2 8BY

Tel: (023) 9262 5542

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**[NAVYNAVSEC-
ACNSPERS@mod.uk](mailto:NAVYNAVSEC-ACNSPERS@mod.uk)**

17 June 2014

Sirs

You will wish to be aware that Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following Honorary appointments in Her Majesty's Armed Forces with effect from 13 June 2014:

Admiral the Lord Boyce KG, GCB, OBE, DL as Admiral of the Fleet

General the Lord Walker GCB, CMG, CBE, DL as Field Marshal

Air Chief Marshal the Lord Stirrup KG, GCB, AFC as Marshal of the Royal Air Force

Jonathan

Distribution:

Admirals of the Fleet

First Sea Lords

Retired Flag & General Officers

Serving Flag & General Officers

Vice Admiral of the UK

Honorary Rear Admirals

SUBMARINER VICTORIA CROSS HOLDERS OF WWI

This is the seventh article of a series in this, the 100th year since the outbreak of the 1st World War, commemorating those Submariners who were awarded the Victoria Cross during that War (1914 – 1919). Similarly to last month's article the following Officer was not serving as a Submariner but as the Commander of a Coastal Motor Boat officer when he won his Victoria Cross during the 'Russian Intervention' in 1919.

Claude Congreve Dobson, VC, DSO

Claude Dobson was born in Clifton, Bristol, Somerset on 1st Jan 1885 and he was the son of Nelson C and Louisa A Dobson. At the time of the 1891 Census the

family were living at 27, Victoria Square, Clifton, Bristol. Claude Dobson joined the Royal Navy as a Cadet on 15th Jan 1900. At the time of the 1901 Census, which was conducted on Sunday 31st March 1901 he was listed as a Naval Cadet in the Training Ship Britannia at

Dartmouth. He was promoted to Midshipman on 30th Oct 1901 and to Sub Lieutenant on 30th Dec 1904. He was appointed to the 14,900 ton Twin Screw Battle Ship HMS ILLUSTRIOUS in the Channel Fleet on 9th Jun 1906.



Claude Dobson

He was promoted to Lieutenant on 30th Mar 1906) and was appointed to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS FORTH (Devonport Submarine Flotilla) as an 'Officer under Training' on 12th Jan 1907. On 18th Sep 1908 he was appointed to HMS FORTH 'for Submarines'. His first Command appointment followed on 1st May 1909 when he was appointed to the Submarine Tender HMS ONYX at Devonport 'for Submarine A7 in Command'. On 1st Mar 1910 he was appointed to HMS FORTH 'for Submarine B10 in Command' and, at the time of the 1911 Census which was conducted on Sunday 2nd April 1911 he was on board the Submarine Depot Ship HMS FORTH at Devonport. On 18th Sep 1911 he was appointed to HMS FORTH 'for Submarine B5 in Command'. He returned to General Surface for his 'Big Ship' time on 29th Mar 1912 with an appointment to the 22,500 ton Battle Ship HMS MONARCH. He was promoted Lieutenant Commander on 30th Mar 1914 and, on 7th Apr 1914, he returned to Submarines when was appointed to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS VULCAN (7th Submarine Flotilla) at Dundee 'for Submarine C27 in Command' and was still in command of that Submarine on 20th Jul 1915 when Dobson sank the German U-Boat U-23 in an Anti-Submarine trap when Submarine C27 was being towed whilst dived by the Trawler PRINCESS LOUISE. For this action he was awarded the DSO – see London Gazette dated 13th Sep 1915. His next appointment, on 1st Sep 1915 was to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS MAIDSTONE (8th Submarine Flotilla) at Harwich 'for Submarine E26 in Command – Standing By whilst Building'. Submarine E26 (a minelayer) was built by the William Beardmore Yard at Dalmuir on the Clyde and was launched on 11th Nov 1915 and 'Commissioned' in December 1915. This was followed by an appointment to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS TITANIA (11th Submarine Flotilla) at Blyth 'for Submarine G6 in Command' to date 22nd Jun 1916. Claude Dobson was then appointed to the Submarine Flotilla Leader HMS ITHURIEL (13th Submarine Flotilla) at Rosyth 'for Submarine K10 in Command' – see Nominal List of 1st Apr 1917. Claude Dobson was

promoted to Commander on 30th Jun 1918. He had left Submarine K10 by 31st Aug 1918 at which time he was reported as 'Sick' and was suffering from a nervous complaint. By December 1918 he was serving HMS PRESIDENT in the 'Anti-Submarine Division' of the Admiralty to which he had been appointed on 21st Oct 1918. In 1919 he was appointed 'in Command' of a Flotilla of eight 55ft Coastal Motor Boats which was dispatched to the Baltic to support Naval Forces during the 'Intervention'. One of the Coastal Motor Boats was lost on the way to the Baltic. During the 'Intervention' Dobson led the seven remaining CMB's plus one other which had been in the Baltic for some time on 'Special Service' on a raid on the Russian Naval Base at KRONSTADT during which two Russian Battleships and a Submarine Depot Ship PAMYAT AZOVA were sunk. For this action Dobson was awarded the Victoria Cross – see London Gazette dated 11th Nov 1919

'for most conspicuous gallantry, skill and devotion to duty on the occasion of the attack on Kronstadt Harbour on the 18th August 1919'.

Commander Dobson organised and was in command of the Coastal Motor Boat Flotilla. He led the Flotilla through the chain of forts to the entrance of the harbour. Coastal Motor Boat No. 31BD, from which he directed the general operations, then passed in, under a very heavy machine gun fire, and torpedoed the Bolshevik Battle Ship "ANDREI PERVOZANNI" subsequently returning through the heavy fire of the forts and batteries to the open sea'.

On 18th Dec 1919 he was listed as appointed to the Coastal Motor Boat Base HMS OSEA in Essex 'as Additional for CMBs'. On 8th May 1920 he was in Canada to attend a demonstration of Alexander Graham Bell's high speed hydrofoil and Brian D Head reports that he later married Dr. Bell's secretary. On 19th Apr 1921 he was appointed to the Torpedo Boat Destroyer HMS HORNET 'in Command'. He was then 'loaned to the Royal Australian Navy' and was appointed to HMS CERBERUS (the Flinders Naval Depot at Westernport, Victoria) 'for Miscellaneous Services' on 1st Apr 1922. He returned home on 3rd Mar 1925 with an appointment to the 23,000 ton Battle Ship HMS CENTURION 'as the Commander'. Claude Dobson was further promoted to Captain on 31st Dec 1925 and, on 9th Aug 1926 he was appointed to the 'Senior Officers Technical Course' and this was followed, on 17th Oct 1926 by the 'Senior Officers War Course'. On 27th Jun 1927 he was appointed to the 4,120 ton Cruiser HMS CALEDON 'in Command' and, on 1st Oct 1927 he was appointed to the 4,190 ton Cruiser HMS COLOMBO 'in Command of 8th Cruiser Squadron, North American Station'. On 17th Mar 1930 he was appointed to the 'Senior Officers War Course'. This was followed by an appointment to the 3,750 ton Light Cruiser HMS CANTERBURY 'in Command' to date 21st Dec 1930 and, on 2nd Feb 1931 by an appointment to the 'Senior Officers Course at the Army School, Sheerness'.

On 27th Jun 1931 Claude Dobson joined the 1,530 ton Destroyer Flotilla Leader HMS MALCOLM (Reserve Fleet at the Nore) *'in Command and as Captain (D) Reserve Fleet'*. On 17th Oct 1931 he was appointed to the 3,920 ton Cruiser HMS CAMBRIAN *'in Command'* and *'as Senior Naval Officer, Reserve Fleet'* at the Nore. His final appointment was to the 4,190 ton Cruiser HMS CARDIFF *'in Command'* on 14th Jul 1933.

Claude Dobson was transferred to the Retired List at his own request on 1st Jan 1935. He was promoted to Rear Admiral on the Retired List on 19th Jul 1936. It is reported that Claude Dobson died on 26th Jun 1940 aged 55 although the circumstances of his death have not been established. He was buried in the Woodlands Cemetery at Gillingham in Kent.

Gloucestershire Echo Thursday 27th June 1940

**ADMIRAL V.C. DEAD
HE TORPEDOED RUSSIAN
WARSHIPS**

Rear-Admiral Claude Congreve Dobson, V.C., D.S.O., died yesterday at Chatham Naval Hospital, aged 55, it was announced to-day.

Rear-Admiral Dobson commanded submarines during the last war. He won the D.S.O. for sinking a U-Boat in 1915.

Later he joined the anti-submarine division at the Admiralty and afterwards the coastal motor boat service. On August 18, 1919, he led a flotilla of eight of these craft in an attack on the Bolshevik Fleet in Kronstadt Harbour.

The flotilla fought its way through the fire from a chain of forts and, once inside, torpedoed several of the Bolshevik warships.

Commander Dobson, as he then was and Lieutenant (now Commander) G.C. Steele were awarded the V.C. for this exploit.

Rear-Admiral Dobson retired in 1935.



Claude Dobson's Victoria Cross and other medals are on display at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich

BRANCH CALENDAR

July Branch Meeting	Tuesday 1st July
Cartmel Races	Saturday 19th July
WWI Parade Planning Meeting	To be advised

Committee Meeting

Branch Barbecue

WWI Commemoration Parade

As required

Saturday 2nd August

Sunday 3rd August

BRANCH BIRTHDAYS JULY 2014

M. J. (Mike) Kirk	06/07/1943
G. (Andy) Anderson	08/07/1959
D. Whitefield	11/07/1966
B. D. (Brian) Downie	13/07/1948
M. Butchart	13/07/1979
M. Hogg	15/07/1957
R. Cambridge	16/07/1947
J. A. (John) Davies	20/07/1969
N. (Neil) Weaver	20/07/1958
C. E. Hutchinson	22/07/1956
C. (C. J.) James	23/07/1957
D. J. (Dan) O'Connell	23/07/1937
R. G. (Bob) Faragher	24/07/1940
J. (Jason) Costello	24/07/1971
B. Naylor	25/07/1964
D. (Dave) Wilson	29/07/1938
A. D. (Alan) Jones	29/07/1938

Happy Birthday to you all!

BRANCH VISIT TO FASLANE - 1987

Last month I included the photo from Ian Walsh of a Barrow Branch Visit to the Clyde Submarine Base in April 1987. It included Ian in the front row and Dave Jenkins in the back row left but we didn't know who the rest were.

Kevin Walker was one of those at the visit and in the photo and he has identified a few more. I have included these names under the photo below.

There are still a few missing names. Can you fill in the missing names? Let me know if you were there!



Left to Right: Kevin Walker, Dave Jenkins, Hughie Short, John?, (?), Tom Fell (?), Ian Walsh, (?), Jim Tiffney

MEMORIAL MARKS 60 YEARS SINCE SUBMARINE TRAGEDY

Tuesday 17th June 2014 in News by Oscar Tollast



**Bryan Simpson at the wreath-laying ceremony at
Portland Heights**

Veterans gathered to remember lives lost in a Portland submarine disaster that took place nearly 60 years ago.

A ceremony took place at the HMS SIDON Memorial yesterday, with one of the remaining survivors placing a wreath by the memorial.

The event was organised by the Dorset Submariners and attended by Commander Rupert Best, one of Dorset's Deputy Lieutenants.

On Thursday, June 16, 1955, one of HMS SIDON's torpedoes exploded, wrecking the torpedo tube and devastating the forward compartments.

Twelve men in the forward compartments died in the explosion.

When SIDON sank, a 13th victim was recorded. A medical officer who had gone on board with the rescue party collapsed unnoticed and died of asphyxiation after everyone else had evacuated.

Bryan Simpson, who was a 21-year-old Leading Seaman at the time, is one of the remaining survivors.

Speaking of the day's events, Mr. Simpson said: "It was something you never think you are going to survive.

"The only reason I survived was because I came back to say all the torpedoes were all loaded.

"I said: 'All loaded, all ready to go' and as I said that, basically, it went up.

Everything went black and things went flying."

Mr. Simpson escaped by climbing up the tower – the nearest possible exit.

The memorial, next to Portland Heights, was put in place on the 50th Anniversary of the tragedy in 2005.

After the wreath was laid there was a minute's silence.

Mr. Simpson said: "I get tearful. I come every year. It's important to me.

"There's not many of us left now."

Mr. Best, who is also the president of the Dorset Submariners, said the ceremony was a way of remembering the tragedy.

"I think at the time not much was said because of the security of the trials concerned. The crew was disbanded and broken up and sent to other submarines very quickly. I suppose we thought we would put that right so there is a tangible place for their children."

A Court of Enquiry absolved anyone aboard HMS Sidon of blame.

The direct cause of the accident was determined to have been the malfunctioning of the safety features of the torpedo.

By Editor:

Barrow Branch Member Colin Lee also served on HMS SIDON and was a survivor of the accident.

HM SUBMARINE SICKLE (P224)

On the evening of Wednesday 18th June 2014 a Service of Remembrance was held in St John the Baptist Church, Epping, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the loss of HMS SICKLE on the 18th of June 1944. It is thought that she had probably struck a mine in the Kythera Channel in the Aegean Sea.

The connection between Epping and the boat was as a result of 'Warship Week' when the people of Epping and Harlow and surrounding villages raised £176,000 (£6 Million in today's money) to sponsor the boat.

A large congregation attended including the Mayor of Epping Councillor Barbara Scruton and the Leader of Harlow Council Mark Williams. The NMC of the Association was represented by Colin Jones and Keith Bishop

The following standards were paraded; Essex Branch Submariners Association, Medway Towns Branch Submariners Association, Epping RNA, Epping Royal British Legion and Epping Air Cadets, together with members of those organisations.

The hour long service was led by The Revd Cannon Geoffrey Connor assisted by the honorary chaplain to the Essex Branch. The dedication of a permanent memorial to the crew followed the service and poppy wreaths were laid in the memorial garden.

By Editor: Submarine HMS SICKLE left for a patrol in the Northern Aegean on 31st May 1944. The Submarine was in action on 4th June when she fired on shipping in Mitylene Harbour. She was later engaged in a gun battle with two German patrol vessels and, during the fight, one member of the crew (Able Seaman Richard Blake) was washed overboard. He was rescued by the patrol vessels and became a Prisoner of War – and the only survivor. HMS SICKLE escaped the engagement by diving and continued on her patrol. On 12th June the Commanding Officer spotted a convoy in the approaches to Steno Pass. The presence of a submarine was suspected by the convoy escort and dropped two depth charges. Soon afterwards all contact with HMS SICKLE was lost. It is assumed that HMS SICKLE probably struck a mine in the Kythera Channel. The Submarine was lost with all hands.

WARSHIP WEEKS IN WWII

During WWII there was a Government Campaign to raise Funds to support the provision of weapons of war and to involve the whole of the country in supporting the Campaign. Although the Campaign was designed to

support provision of equipment to the three Services the main area of interest to us were what became known as 'Warship Weeks'. Cities, Towns and Rural Areas were included with each being given Funding Targets. Such Funding Targets were advertised as being sufficient for a particular type of Naval Vessel. During the selected week for each area visits by Naval Officers and Ratings – normally those recently involved in particular action or Victoria Cross holders etc. and events such as Dinners and Dances arranged as Fund Raisers. Additionally Cities, Towns and Rural Areas were invited to adopt a suitable named Vessel and visits were usually arranged for the crews to meet their adopted town etc and a Plaque would be presented to the Local Authority. Branch Member Peter Schofield has made an extensive research of Warship Weeks and will be providing examples of adopted Submarines for inclusion in this and future copies of Periscope View. His first two contributions are:

HMS PANDORA
SELKIRK AND GALASHIELS



The adoption plaque for HMS PANDORA is held at the Municipal Building, Selkirk. The plaque shown is one of two, the second being presented to Galashiels. Both towns were involved in raising a county target of £350,000 in war savings to adopt the submarine, the final total raised being £405,420. It was also reported that a bronze plaque, commemorating Selkirkshire Warship Week was to be presented to the submarine. The plaque bore the county crest, and was emblazoned with the county motto 'Leal to the Border.' It was the work of Messrs Henshaw, Edinburgh. The crest represents Pandora's Box which contained many of mankind's benefits and ills. When Pandora opened the box, the ills took flight before she could close the lid. Only hope was left trapped inside, therefore the motto 'hope on, hope ever'. HMS PANDORA was sunk at the Valetta Dockyard, Malta by Italian aircraft on 1st April 1942. She was raised in September 1943 but not repaired and eventually scrapped in 1945*. HMS PANDORA was the name given to the Air Sea Rescue Base at Littlehampton from 1942 to 1945. The name

was also commemorated in the naming of Pandora Block at HMS DOLPHIN.

The inscription on the Plaque reads:

'Presented by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to the Royal Burgh of Selkirk to Commemorate the Adoption of HMS PANDORA During Warship Week November 8th to 15th 1941.'

*By Editor: Twenty five of the crew were killed in the sinking. A few of the survivors were also lost a few weeks later as passengers returning home in HMS OLYMPUS. HMS PANDORA was raised and beached alongside HMS P39 on Kalkara Creek. In 1957 the submarine was broken up as she lay and during the breaking up the skeletons of two of the crew were found. These remains were buried at sea from the Submarine HMS TUDOR on 1st Jul 1957.

HMS PORPOISE
WORKINGTON



The adoption plaque for HMS PORPOISE is held nearer home at the Helena Thompson Museum, Workington. With an adoption target of £300,000 the town fell short raising £252,355 in war savings. Workington Warship Week was held 21st-28th February 1942. The diamond shaped crest differed from the crest of the post war HMS PORPOISE. Today's shapes date from 1940 when it was decided to give new ships a round frame. HMS PORPOISE helped save Malta as Britain's first submarine tanker carrying supplies of aviation fuel and ammunition during the Luftwaffe attacks on convoys. Operating in the Far East. HMS PORPOISE was sunk (with all hands) by Japanese aircraft in the Malacca Strait on 19th January 1945.

The inscription on the Plaque reads:

Presented by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to Workington to Commemorate the Adoption of HMS PORPOISE During Warship Week Feb 28th 1942

SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION - MEMBERS CROSSED THE BAR – JUNE 2014
RESURGAM

Branch	Date	Name	Rank/Rating	O/N	Age	Submarine Service
Dolphin Branch & Submarine Officers Association	29th May 2014	Philip Marrack, CB	Rear Admiral (E)	N/A	91	Submarine Service from 1948 to 1950 in TEMPLAR (Apr 48 to May 49) & TOKEN (May 49 to May 50)
Submarine Officers Association	1st June 2014	Hugo Moresby White, GCB, CBE, DL	Admiral	N/A	75	Submarine Service from 1961 to 1975 in TABARD (62-64), TIPTOE (64), ODIN (64-65), WARSPITE (NO 66-68), OSIRIS (IL 68-89), ORACLE (CO 70-71) & Cdr CSST (73-75)
Blackpool & Fylde Branch (formerly Scottish Branch)	8th June 2014	Joseph Raymond Schofield	Lieutenant (E) (MESM)	N/A	75	Submarine Service from 1972 to 1976 in OLYMPUS, GRAMPUS & WALRUS
Submarines Association Of Canada (West)	12th June 2014	Claire Wilson	Leading Hand	NA	TBA	Submarine Service to be advised
Submarine Officers Association	13th June 2014	Andrew Elliot Thomson	Captain	NA	82	Submarine Service from 22nd June 1953 in SUBTLE (Oct 53 to Aug 55), TRESPASSER (Jul 57), TACITURN (IL Mar 58), TACITURN (CO Mar 59), THULE (CO Aug 60), ALCIDE (CO Sep 65), ONSLAUGHT (CO Feb 66) & RESOLUTION (CO)
Submarine Officers Association	16th June 2014	Brian Marshall	Commander (WESM)	NA	TBA	Submarine Service not reported
Dorset Branch	17th June 2014	John Gerard Walmsley	Lieutenant Commander (WESM)	NA	68	Submarine Service from 1972 to 1986 in REVENGE (twice)
Gosport Branch (formerly Northants Branch)	20th June 2014	Peter Burgess	Leading Seaman (RP2)	NA	78	Submarine Service from 1954 to Feb 1966 in TURPIN, TELEMACHUS, SEASCOUT, ANCHORITE, ANDREW & OTUS
Hull & East Yorkshire Branch	22nd June 2014	Andrew J Mahood	CT1	NA	64	Submarine Service from 1968 to 1978 in FINWHALE (69-70); CACHALOT (70-71); ONSLAUGHT (72-75) & OSIRIS (75-78)
Australia Branch (former Eastern States Branch)	26th June 2014	Ralph Anthony Saville 'Tony' Platt	Lieutenant	NA	95	Submarine Service from April 1941 to Sep 1944 in P32, UPRIGHT(3rd Hand), UPHOLDER, SEAWOLF (IL) & L23
Submarine Officers Association	June 2014	Casper William Carnegie 'Bill' Swinley, OBE	Captain	NA	83	Submarine Service from 1952 to 1965 in SPRINGER (52-53), ARTFUL (53), STICKLEBACK (54-56), ANCHORITE (IL 56-58), GRAMPUS (IL 58-59), ASTUTE (CO 58-60), ARTEMIS (CO 60-62), AUROCHS (CO 63) & ANDREW (CO 63-65)



NEW BOOK 'COLD WAR COMMAND'

Did you serve in any of the following Submarines – ODIN, SEALION, OBERON, OTTER, SPARTAN, COURAGEOUS or VALIANT? Were you on board any of these Boats with Captain Daniel 'Dan' Conley? If yes then you might want to get hold a copy of a new book 'COLD WAR COMMAND' written jointly by Dan Conley and Richard Woodman.

The book covers a broad sweep of naval and submarine history since WWII as background material – mainly the work of Richard Woodman and details of Dan Conley's Naval and Submarine career covering his time in and experiences ashore and afloat. Having seen a review copy of the book (and having served with Dan on a few occasions - ashore and afloat) I can say it is a good read and can vouch for some of his recollections.

The book is published by Seaforth and is now on general sale through Seaforth's website <http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/latestreleases/18> or through Amazon. Even better it can be bought by telephone order from the Submarine Museum Shop, 02392 510354 Ext 241. All profits are going to the Submarine Museum.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME 'SUBMARINE MISSION IMPOSSIBLE'

Bob Pointer tells me that there is a programme on Tuesday 1st July at 9 pm on the Yesterday channel ,which should be worth watching. It is called 'Submarine Mission Impossible' and tells the story of the Australian Submarine AE2 and includes film of dives to investigate the wreck in the Sea of Marmara. The wreck was redicovered a few years ago after having been lost since April 1915. This is the same Submarine as is commemorated on our Memorial in Ramsden Square.

As Tuesday is the Branch Meeting you will need to ensure you set your TV to 'Record'.
