

# 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

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Cover Picture: Commander Dylan Findlater, RAN lays a Wreath at the AE1/AE2 Memorial on 14<sup>th</sup> September behalf of the Australian Defence Forces (Photo by the North West Evening Mail)

#### **EDITORIAL**

Here we are again – already we're up to the October Edition of the Newsletter - soon be on the run down to Christmas! On Sunday 14th September we held our Ceremony at the AE1 and AE2 Memorial in Ramsden Square to remember the loss of the Barrow built Australian Submarine HMAS AE1. This happened exactly 100 years ago to the day and was the first Submarine lost in WWI. AE1 vanished without trace and with three officers and thirty two men in the Pacific. The weather for our Ceremony was fine, we were supported by the Royal British Legion, the Duke of Lancaster's Regimental Association, the Royal Air Force Association, the Sea Cadets, the Barrow Male Voice Choir, Piper Mike Ramsay and family & friends. Our Chairman laid a Wreath - as did our guest Commander Dylan Findlater, RAN. The Commander addressed the Parade and his speech is included in this Newsletter. After the Parade we held an Australian 'Morning Tea' in the RBL Lounge. Thank you to the Barrow Council who agreed to the flying of the Australian National Flag from the Town Hall on Sunday 14th September and thank you to all who helped to organise and support the Branch in this event. Having been supported by the RAF Association at our Parade on 14th September it was our turn to support them at their Battle of Britain Parade on Sunday 21st September. As usual the Parade was from the Town Hall to the Cenotaph for a 'Service' and 'Wreath Laying' before returning to the RBL for a few drinks and a Social Gathering. Thank you every one

For those of you curious to know where and what the building was that Ian Walsh was standing in front of in the picture in the last two issues – it was the 'Attack Teacher' outside Rothesay on the Isle of Bute. No one contacted me with an identification so it is one up to Ian.

Branch Member Bob pointer is taking part in the Walney Island Walk on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October. If you would like to sponsor him there is a Sponsorship Form at Page 12. For those wanting to attend the 2015 National Council Conference and Reunion details and Accommodation and Meals Booking Forms are at Pages 13 to 16.

Please enjoy your October Branch Newsletter and don't forget that you too can help by sending in your contributions – everyone has a story to tell - and any comments you think relevant – polite ones only – of course!

Regards to all, Barrie Downer

# **CHAIRMANS DIT - OCTOBER 2014**



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Hi to you all

First of all please accept my apologies for not chairing the October Meeting. I have been forced, against my will of course, to get some sea time in and go on a cruise, well somebody has got to keep P&O afloat I suppose! Kenny Collins has kindly agreed to take over the chair for this meeting for which I thank him. I know that with his past experience he will do a good job. Cheers mate. The September meeting was a bit different with our ladies and friends present to enjoy a quiz evening. The usual suspects won of course but we have come to expect that. The highlight was that Alex had put on a good hot buffet spread, which was welcome and very good. Thanks Alex.

Last weekend (Sunday 14th Sept) we met to remember those who had perished in the Barrow built Australian Submarine AE1, which was lost one hundred years ago to the day. Cdr Dylan Findlater an Australian Submariner based in the Oz Embassy in London came up to remember his former comrades and lay a wreath in memory. Our own mayor, who said we should never forget the sacrifice they made, also graced us. My special thanks goes to Barrie Downer who almost single handedly arranged the memorial and service. Well done Barrie. We had good coverage in the Evening Mail, which is always good to get our name published around the Borough.

Afterwards at the RBL I took the opportunity to chat to the mayor about the poor securing arrangements for the wreaths at the Cenotaph. Those that were at the WW1 Commemoration will remember the wind being rather unkind to our wreaths. This is not the first time of course and I made it quite plain that it is unacceptable and that the council needs to address it. She totally agreed with my sentiments and has promised to get some action from the relevant people. Hopefully if it is windy in November the wreaths will sit proudly in place.

If you haven't done so already get your name to Alex Webb for the Ladies Night on Friday 7th Nov. This year it is being held at the Fairways Hotel. If it is anything like last year it will be an excellent 'do'. Miss out at your peril.

I know it might seem a long way off but the National Annual Conference/ Reunion will be held over the weekend of 27 – 29 March 2015. This is the first fully

integrated Reunion which means that our ladies will be present. Well they are for the Reunion but the Conference itself will be for the full members only. I ask that you get your applications in now so that I don't have the embarrassment of cancelling due to lack of numbers as happened at the mixed reunion. It turned out that a lot of people were intending to attend that reunion but had not bothered to let me know. I cannot operate like that as I have to declare the room requirements to the hotel well in advance. Anyway find attached a circular and the applications.

Well that's all for now as I must go and pack my grip.

#### Dave

#### A WORD FROM THE VICE CHAIRMAN

Well, as our illustrious leader is away sunning himself in warmer climes, I have the chance of getting a word in! We were in Scotland last week for a wee break and surrounded by the Independence debate, thank goodness it is over, for now as I think it will raise its ugly head again. I personally believe in the Union and think they voted the correct way.

I hear there was a good turnout for the AE1 Memorial Ceremony, which included the other services, well done to all concerned.

I have in my possession the "We Remember Submariners" pins, which depict the five poppies for the five submarines lost in 1914, the first of which was AE1. The gold poppies are for the members of this Association who crossed the bar in 2014 including a gold star for one of the American cousins who was a member and passed. WRS is not a charity but sell pins to fund "Mollies" (produced in memory of Lt Cdr Molineux who was killed on Astute) and which are donated to the wives and family of departed submariners. It also funds Wreaths and supports Charitable Associations such as the RNA and RBL to name a couple. I have a quantity of pins, which are being sold for £5 each; £2.75 goes to WRS and £2.25 to our Charity Chest/Charity. If you want one, I will have them at the October meeting. These are limited edition pins.

Ken

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT



Hello

I am again down in the sunny south of England and will be for the next month or two. Flogging up and down the M6 can be a pain or a pleasure dependent upon the traffic situation but in the main it is a pain.

Unfortunately this weekend I suffered a major failure in my laptop that has taken me out of the loop and it now resides with PC World. I expect to get it back by 1st October so in the meantime I cannot fill your in box with notices. Barrie is doing a marvellous job standing in for me, so if you see any e-mails from Barrie please read them and I will fill your in box when I am back on line.

We have had a request to support Askam Parish Council on Remembrance Sunday so if you can spare sometime please let me know and I will pass numbers to the Council. In this the Centenary of the start of WW1 I think we should support local events to the best of our ability.

It is now rapidly approaching December by which date any resolutions for National Conference needs to be in. The Committee would need to review any proposals before putting to the Branch. The December meeting is the last time the Branch can vote so if you have any suggestions please submit them to a member of the Committee at the earliest opportunity.

November is traditionally a busy month for the Branch with Ladies Night and Remembrance Sunday. Alex is doing a marvellous job in arranging Ladies Night and has selected a new venue, at Fairways Hotel, formerly Stroke One. Many years ago the Branch used to attend cabaret nights up there and a good night usually ensued, so if you haven't booked your seats yet contact Alex and let him know how many you will be brining with you. No doubt Alex will provide more details in his brief.

Kindest regards

Ron

#### **SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT**



Hi Shipmates,

September saw the quiz after the meeting, we had a good laugh, some home-made chilli and hotdogs and the quiz was middle of the road which I think was enjoyed by all. The winners were Jan & Linda accompanied by Jeff & Brenda; but only just by 1 point. As we speak they are on high seas but I would like to give my thanks to them for their very kind and generous donation of the winnings (£33) to the social fund; which in turn will be ploughed into our Christmas party – many thanks

#### Diary Check:

Friday 10th October is our race night at the Legion, starting at 7:30 with the first race at 7:40. It is free entry and food will be available for a very small charge. Please come along and support us for a couple of hours; have a beer and a flutter. The profit from the evening will be divided equally between our Christmas fund and St Perran's Scout group (to help them buy some much needed equipment for their group). A lot of the Association are away so please make the effort to come along to boost the numbers for these worthy causes.

Tickets are on sale for the Ladies Night Dinner Dance: James Bond style. Friday 7th November at the Fairways Hotel from 7pm. Cost is £37:50 per person and this will

give you a ticket to the best party in town; also you will get a reception drink (shaken not stirred), 3 course meal, half bottle of wine, port toast, ladies favours, 2 live entertainers and a disco to late in the evening. If you have already put your name down great, if not then what are you waiting for; this is going to be a fantastic evening. I don't want to ruin any of the surprises but I have it on good authority that Sean Connery, Pierce Brosnan and Daniel Craig will be there!

Friday 18th December children's Christmas party from 1 – 4 at the Legion, cost £5 with your child getting a gift from Santa, food, drink and a disco. Limited to 50 so please don't miss out and get your tickets at the November meeting.

Saturday 19th December is the adult Christmas party, cost £3 which will give you live entertainments from Steve Silver, disco and food. Also there will be a raffle and a good time to be had to all. This event is heavily subsidised so it really is your chance to get your money's worth out of the social fund.

As always at the meetings I run a raffle and the members (free) draw which was not won in September so now is at £20; we are talking big money and 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.

These events are organised for you, so please join in and have a laugh and a good time.

Alex Webb Social Secretary

# THE AE1 COMMEMORATION PARADE & SERVICE

A Parade and Commemorative Ceremony to mark the 100th Anniversary of the loss of the Australian Submarine AE1 on 14th September 1914 was held at the AE1/AE2 Memorial in Ramsden Square in Barrow in Furness on Sunday 14th September 2014. Prior to the Parade the Piper (Mr Mike Ramsay) played a selection of

Scottish airs. David Barlow welcomed the Guests and addressed the Parade as follows:

Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, we gather here today to remember HM Australian Submarine AE1 and her crew. One hundred years ago today, on 14th September 1914, AE1 and her crew set sail to carry out a patrol off what was then the island of New Britain in the South Pacific.

The Submarine was last sighted in the afternoon by HMAS PARRAMATTA - her partner in a joint patrol. Signals were exchanged and the two vessels went on their separate ways expecting to meet up in harbour later that day. AE1 was never seen again and had vanished without trace with her crew of three Officers and thirty two Ratings. Most of those lost had, only a short time previously, been in the Shipyard of Vickers, Sons and Maxim in Barrow in Furness 'Standing By' while AE1 was being completed.

We remember today all those who were lost that day and whose names are engraved on this Memorial. They are remembered here today and also in ceremonies at other Memorials to AE1 in the Bita Paka War Cemetery in Papua New Guinea, at the Submarine Heritage Trail in Brisbane, Queensland, at Garden Island in Sydney, New South Wales, at HMAS STIRLING in Western Australia as well as at the Royal Navy Submarine Museum in Gosport.'

Following a short service, conducted by Barrow Branch Lay Chaplain Alan Jones, Commander Dylan Findlater, Royal Australian Navy addressed the Parade as follows: 'Ladies and Gentlemen:

"A ship is safe in harbour, but that is not what ships are built for."

These words, popularised by an American Admiral of the computer age, Grace M. Hopper, USN, are timeless in their meaning. For all ships, and warships in particular, a harbour such as Simpsonhafen, as a place in Papua New Guinea was once known to some, can be a haven, a place of relative safety and security.

But warships are built for a purpose. They are built to go in harm's way, to take risks and to fight and win at sea. They must endure not only the power and fury of the seas, and the depths, but also the actions of the enemy.

The crew of Australia's first submarines were keenly aware of the risks of their naval profession and of their particular Trade. In May of 1914 at a public reception to mark their arrival in Sydney, the Commanding Officer of HMAS AE1, Lieutenant Commander Thomas Besant, spoke about life as a submariner. He said:

'It's not all beer and skittles and perhaps it is a harder life than in other branches of the service, but it's the life I've chosen. Oh, yes, it's dangerous if you want to look at it like that but it's got to be done — and every man in the Navy, no matter what branch he is in, has to be prepared to meet danger when it comes.'

Ladies and Gentlemen, we meet today in Barrow-in-Furness while others have met in Gosport, Rabaul, Papua New Guinea, and in Brisbane, Sydney and Fremantle, Australia, to remember the thirty five officers and sailors of our first submarine, AE1, who died on this day in September one hundred years ago.

In today's age of technical mastery, when we know infinitely more about submarines and the undersea domain that they inhabit, it is truly difficult to appreciate the sheer courage and the resilience these people needed just to take their boats to sea, let alone to war.

Having died in the first RAN vessel to be lost at sea, the men of AE1 have a particular and permanent place in Australia's naval history. Their bravery lives on as a foundation stone for the standards and traditions of their professional descendants, the men and women of the Australian Submarine Arm.

Undoubtedly tragic, the circumstances of AE1's loss remain mysterious today. Shrouded in the mists of time and the vagaries of the sea, the circumstances of her loss and her final resting place may never be known. However, the knowledge that is hidden from us should do nothing to diminish our admiration for the crew.

While the scale of the casualties during the First World War might tempt us to skip over the slighter numbers of the lesser actions, this is a temptation to resist.

- Each person who served risked their life.
- Each person who was injured or killed had family and friends.
- Each of them gave of themselves for the security, prosperity and way of life we enjoy today.

Their fate did not slip from the minds of their families in Australia, in New Zealand and in Britain, whose mourning for them was life-long. Nor has the fate of AE1 and AE2 slipped from the memory of the Royal Australian Navy. Two new submarine support vessels, to be named MV Besant and MV Stoker, will soon honour the Commanding Officers and entire Ship's Companies of both submarines.

And our modern Submarine Force continues to draw inspiration from the endeavours of our first submariners – operating forward, in the littorals of our then German and Turkish enemies, AE1 and AE2 established a proud tradition of service, sacrifice and war-fighting spirit, which the Submariners of the Royal Australian Navy have sought to uphold ever since.

Today, the strength of the alliance between the Royal Navy and Royal Australian Navy can be traced back to those days when British sailors fought side-by-side Australians in AE1 and AE2. This enduring bond is demonstrated by the continued exchange of information, combined training and exchange of personnel.

Furthermore, Australia recognises the capability of the shipyard here at Barrow to deliver the world's greatest submarines today, just as it did 100 years ago.

For a maritime nation such as Australia, our submarines are vital to our security, our prosperity and our way of life. Though today's submarines are immensely more capable than their predecessors, their crucial edge continues to be found in their people – the men and women who take them to sea and all those who maintain and support them.

They each know that our submarines can be safe in harbour, but that is not what they are built for.

So as we remember the service and sacrifice of the crew of AE1, I can do no better than quote Able Seaman John Wheat of the AE2, who wrote a heartfelt dedication in tribute to his fellow submariners.

"To the memory of our sister ship AE1 and her crew. We took the first patrol on the 13th, they took the second next day. We came back, they didn't. The path of our duty became the high-way of mystery for them for they never returned. They lie coffined in the

deep, keeping their silent watch at Australia's North Passage, heroes all."

Commander Findlater's speech was followed by an Act of Remembrance with a 'Two Minutes Silence' during which the Standards were 'dipped'. One unplanned event during the 'Silence' was a sudden and poignant shower of autumn leaves falling on the Standards.

Wreaths were laid by David Barlow and Commander Findlater during which Piper Mike Ramsay played the Lament 'Flowers of the Forest'. Afterwards Jan Mead read out the names of the Crew of AE1.

Barrie Downer read a Poem written by the Australian Del M'Cay in 1914 entitled 'To The Men of AE1 – Entombed But Nor Forgotten'.

The Barrow Male Voice Choir led the Parade in the singing of the Australian National Anthem and the National Anthem.

Following the Parade an Australian 'Morning Tea' was held in the Lounge at the Royal British Legion for Guests, Members, families and friends.

# THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN PARADE 2014

The RAF 'Battle of Britain Parade' took place on Sunday 21st September in bright autumn sunshine. The Parade, organised by the Royal Air Force Association, formed up at the Barrow Town Hall at 1115 and 'Marched Off' to the Cenotaph at 1130 led by the Barrow Pipe Band.

On the way to the Cenotaph Salutes were made at the AE1/AE2 Memorial and at the Coronation Gardens. A short service took place led by the Padre of the Furness Hospital and this was followed by a "Two Minute Silence' and the Wreath Laying by the RBL, the Service Associations and the Mayor of Barrow

On completion of the Service the Parade marched back to the Royal British Legion in Holker Street to be entertained by the Steelworks Band. Refreshments were laid on by the RAF Association. A raffle raised funds for the RAF Cadets. The first prize (a giant cuddly Minnie Mouse) was won by Barrow Branch Member Bob Pointer but was donated as a prize for a future draw. Two other prizes were won by Branch Members. The Parade was attended by eight members of the

The Parade was attended by eight members of the Barrow Branch of the Submariners Association (Gordon Walker paraded the Branch Standard) and a Wreath was laid by Barrie Downer on behalf of the Branch.

# THE SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL WEBSITE

Can I please make you all aware that following a lot of very hard work and dedication over the last three months by our Webmaster - Mike Kemp - the Submariners Association Website has been updated and brought into the 21st Century. The message below from Mike explains how the new Website evolved and will also help you get started on your voyage of discovery. If you have already received this message I apologise.

Kind regards

David Watts (Hon. National Secretary)

Gents

Earlier this year I worked on two Mobile Applications for Smartphones, for both Android and Apple Mobile devices

To test one of the Applications I asked Peter Swift (Chairman) & Ian Warner (Secretary) and some of the members of the Blackpool Branch & I am grateful for their assistance and input.

The Mobile Application was well received and I keep a copy for training purposes on my PC & Phone

However, I encountered some difficulties with the 100's of varied devices on the market also I had some problems in getting iTunes (Apple) to accept the App

Having trawled various Websites, I decided to rebuild our website throughout to be more Mobile Phone and responsive to enable the site to run on most - if not all devices, from PC's, Laptops, Tablets, PDA's, and Mobile Smartphones.

Templates were purchased and I started work on the 1st August 2014, migrating the information from the current Website to the new one

Earlier on the morning of 30 Sep 2014 the Website you know has was removed and the new Website is now live The Website has been tested on PC, Laptop, Android Tablet, iPad mini, and Mobile Smartphone - however:

The Database Tables are linked from the Server and they may look strange on a small Phone screen.

The Database Pages, i.e.: Current Membership, WWII Membership and In Memorium are best to look at on a larger device than a Mobile Phone screen

I would recommend using Google Chrome as it does not have the issues with Cache as Internet Explorer! Perhaps you might make this your Default Internet Browser. The new Website link for your Devices is:

www.submarinersassociation.co.uk/index.htm but please note that it is [. htm]

There are hundreds of links, and I think they are all working but I am sure someone will find a link they cannot get. I will answer them in due course

Please take a look and enjoy, it has been an interesting challenge!

Regards

Mike Kemp, SA Webmaster

# **SUBMARINER VICTORIA CROSS HOLDERS OF WWII**

This is the tenth article of a series commemorating those Submariners who have been awarded the Victoria Cross and this article covers the third of the World War II Submariners.

Petty Officer Thomas William Gould, V.C. O/N C/JX 147945

Thomas William (known as 'Nat) Gould was born in Dover in Kent on 28th Dec 1914 and he was the son of

Reuben and Mrs C E Gould. As a Sergeant in the Queen's Own, Royal West Kent Regiment Reuben Gould was killed in action in France on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jul 1916. Nat Gould's mother was later married to a Petty Officer Cheeseman. Educated at St James's School, Dover, Nat Gould joined the Royal Navy on 29<sup>th</sup> Sep 1933, and after training, served in the cruisers HMS EMERALD and COLOMBO.

Nat Gould joined the Submarine Service in 1937 and served in Submarines HMS GRAMPUS, REGENT, PANDORA and REGULUS before THRASHER. He was rated Acting Petty Officer on 17th August 1940. Tommy Gould won the Victoria Cross while serving in the Mediterranean in Submarine HMS THRASHER in February 1942. On 16th February 1942 THRASHER was patrolling off Suva Bay, on the north coast of Crete, when she torpedoed and sank an escorted 3,000 ton Axis supply ship. The escorts and covering aircraft attacked with about thirty depth charges and some were reported close. THRASHER survived these attacks and carried on with the patrol. That evening THRASHER surfaced to recharge batteries. On altering course and the Submarine rolled in the swell and loud banging noises were heard outside the pressure hull. On investigation a bomb was found to be lying on the casing forward of the gun mounting.

Lieutenant Roberts, the First Lieutenant and Petty Officer Gould the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coxswain volunteered to remove the bomb. As it was thought that he bomb might roll off the casing on to the saddle tank and detonate Gould held the bomb and Roberts put a sack round the bomb and tied it with a length of rope. It was manhandled forward to the bows and dropped overboard as the Submarine went full astern to get clear.

Further checks identified a jagged hole in the casing and another bomb was lying under the casing on the pressure hull. The only way out was through a hinged metal grating about twenty feet away. The two men lowered themselves through the opening and wriggled on their stomachs to where the bomb lay. If it exploded the submarine would be lost. THRASHER was off an enemy coast and the enemy were aware there was a Submarine in the area. The Commanding Officer of THRASHER, Lt. Hugh Mackenzie, would dive the submarine if enemy forces were sighted and the two men would be drowned. Nat Gould had to lie on his back with the bomb in his arms while Lieutenant Roberts laid in front of him and pulled him along by the shoulders as they made their way back to the hatch. With only the light of a shaded torch they worked the bomb through the casing and eased it through the grating. The bomb reportedly made a twanging noise when it was moved and it was 40 minutes before they had it clear and it could be wrapped in the sack, carried forward and dropped over the bows.

"I never expected to get the VC," Gould is reported to have said. "When we came down from the casing that night, we were soaking wet." All the Captain said was: You'd better get yourselves dried"."

The Commanding Officer did not make much of the incident in his patrol report and merely commended Roberts and Gould for their "excellent conduct". The incident was forgotten until several months later, when, as Mackenzie recalled, he was:

"shaken by the news that Roberts and Gould had both been awarded the Victoria Cross. A great personal honour to themselves and, as they and I felt, also to their fellow submariners."

The VCs were awarded on the recommendation of the C-in-C Mediterranean, Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham, but opposed by the Honours and Awards Committee in London, which argued that the act of bravery had not been performed in the presence of the enemy as the Victoria Cross Rules stipulate. The Committee thought that the George Cross would be more appropriate. Cunningham replied that two large enemy bombs in a submarine off an enemy coastline constituted quite enough enemy presence.

London Gazette, 9 June 1942

Petty Officer Thomas William Gould & Lieutenant Peter Roberts, Royal Navy (HM Submarine THRASHER).

'On 16th February 1942, in daylight, H.M. Submarine 'Thrasher' attacked and sank a heavily escorted supply ship. She was at once attacked by depth charges and was bombed by aircraft. The presence of two unexploded bombs in the gun casing was discovered when after dark the submarine surfaced and began to roll.

Lieutenant Roberts and Petty Officer Gould volunteered to remove the bombs, - which were of a type unknown to them. The danger in dealing with the second bomb was very great. To reach it they had to go through the casing which was so low that they had to lie at full length to move in it. Through this narrow space, in complete darkness, they pushed and dragged the bomb for a distance of some 20 feet until it could be lowered over the side. Every time the bomb was moved there was a loud twanging noise as of a broken spring which added nothing to their peace of mind. This deed was the more gallant as H.M.S. Thrasher's presence was known to the enemy: she was close to the enemy coast, and in waters where his patrols were known to be active day and night. There was a very great chance, and they knew it, that the submarine might have to crash-dive while they were in the casing. Had this happened they must have been drowned.'

Thomas Gould was invested with his Victoria Cross by King George VI at Buckingham Palace in March 1943. On January 13 1943, Gould was made an Honorary Freeman of Dover; and in March, after his Investiture at Buckingham Palace, he went home to St Albans, where he then lived, for a Civic Reception hosted by the Mayor Corporation of St. Albans. Later in the war he was Mentioned in Despatches for the action in which submarine HMS TRUCULENT sank U-308 off the Faroe Islands.

Nat Gould was 'invalided' from the Navy in October 1945. He became a business consultant and was for some years Chief Personnel Manager with Great Universal Stores. He kept up his interest in the Navy and the Jewish community, taking part in Jewish ex-Servicemen's marches and in July 1946 took part a march

through London to protest against the Government's policy towards Palestine. He was 'commissioned' as a Lieutenant, RNR and commanded the Sea Cadet Corps at Bromley in Kent, where he was then living. In May 1965, Gould's name was in the papers again, this time as "a VC on the dole". He had lost his job as personnel manager because of "a clash of personalities" and remarked that he was finding his VC a liability. "Incredible though it may seem, people in top management seem to shy away from me. I think it might be because they are afraid that a man with such a record could show too much embarrassing initiative. If it is the VC which is frightening people away from me I wish they would forget it. Those days are over."

For several years Gould was President of the International Submariners Association of Great Britain and was an active member of his local Royal Naval Association, of the Submariners Association and the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association. Tommy 'Nat' Gould, who was one of only three Jewish recipients of the Victoria Cross in WWII, died on 10th Dec 2001 at the age of eighty seven.

'Nat' Gould's Victoria Cross was sold at Sotheby's on October 1987 for £44,000. It is held, with his other medals, by the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women

# **BRANCH CALENDAR**

October Branch Meeting
Race Night
Trafalgar Ball
DOL Social Fleetwood
Ladies Night Dinner/Dance
Committee Meeting

7th October
24th October
7th November
7th November
As required

# **BRANCH BIRTHDAYS OCTOBER 2014**

02/10/1942
03/10/1947
10/10/1949
12/10/1936
14/10/1949
16/10/1967
17/10/1956
18/10/1971
18/10/1954
19/10/1980
20/10/1942
25/10/1937
30/10/1930
to you all!

#### SUBMARINE LOSSES OF WWI

This is the second article in a series listing Submarine losses month by month during WWI and the Crew Members lost. Last month we heard about the Australian Submarine AE1.

The first Royal Navy Submarine lost in WWI was Submarine E3. The Submarine had been detailed to patrol off the Island of Borkum in the North Sea.

However Submarine E3 was sighted, whilst on the surface, by the German U-Boat U-27. The Commander of U-27 fired his torpedoes and sank E3. It is reported that four of the crew were seen in the water after the Submarine sank but the Commander of U-27 (Lieutenant Commander Bernhard Wegener) was unwilling to close the area to make a rescue as he was concerned that there was another British Submarine in the area. When he finally closed the area of the sinking all four had vanished. As a result all of the crew of Submarine E3 died in the sinking. The Crew members of Submarine E3 was as follows:

#### Officers:

Lt Cdr George Francis Cholmley, RN – In Command Lt John Stuart Binney Scott, RN - 1st Lieutenant Sub Lt John Gerald Barrow, RN – 3rd Hand

#### Ratings:

CPO George Webster MacFarlane O/N 160606 PO Herbert Joseph Harris O/N 175521 PO Frederick Wallace Edroff O/N 216669 Ldg Seaman Stanley Vernon Coutanche O/N 229936 Ldg Seaman George William Taylor O/N J5939 Ldg Seaman John William Westrope O/N 201402 Able Seaman Albert Edward Hunt O/N 235216 Able Seaman Robert Jones O/N 215732 Able Seaman William George Lowman O/N J10953 Able Seaman Peter Querotret O/N 210665 Able Seaman William Young O/N 221404 Signalman Alfred Lowe Morgan O/N 223305 (Dev) ERA 1st Class Fred Hunt O/N 269555 ERA 2nd Class Richard Saunders Hellon O/N 271113 ERA 3rd Class Charley Ellman Blake O/N M280 ERA 3rd Class Joseph Stothard O/N M987 Acting Chief Stoker Neil Matheson O/N 287663 Stoker Petty Officer Percy George Merritt O/N 301550. Acting Ldg Stoker George Henry Tanner O/N 222533 Stoker 1st Class William Alexander Beal O/N K8664 Stoker 1st Class Percy Beckwith O/N K2496 Stoker 1st Class Alfred John Douglas O/N K4408 Stoker 1st Class Alfred Ernest House O/N K808 Stoker 1st Class Edgar Scott O/N K2072 Stoker 1st Class Jesse Whittington O/N K3399

## WALNEY ISLAND WALK

Barrow Branch Member Bob Pointer will be accompanying the Barrow Mayor's Consort, Steve Derbyshire, on a sponsored walk round Walney on Sunday 5th October, to raise funds for the Mayor's charities.

A Sponsorship Form from Bob is attached at the end of this Newsletter.

Any contributions to this worthy cause will be appreciated would be greatly appreciated.

# WARSHIP WEEKS HMS STURGEON

This is the latest contribution by Peter Schofield The three adoption plaques shown in the photograph, two for HMS STURGEON (adopted by Selby Urban District and Rural District) and one for the Motor Launch HMML 153 (Osgoldcross Rural District) were saved in December 2010 after local councillors noted they had been put up for sale by Selby District Council through the industrial auctioneers CLM Asset Management at an auction house in Scunthorpe. The Plaques had been in the Housing Maintenance Depot which the Council had sold to Tesco.

Selby Urban and Rural districts held a combined Warship Week from 21st to 28th March 1942 and raised £212,620 in savings securities to adopt STURGEON; the target being £175,000 for the hull. The Plaques, when found, were in poor condition and underwent professional restoration at a cost of some £500. Pictured with the plaques is Steve Shaw-Wright who is the leader of Selby Town Council.



HMS STURGEON was not a new submarine when she was adopted. She was one of the first batch of four 'S' Class Submarines ordered. STURGEON was ordered from Chatham Dockyard, was 'Laid Down' on 1st January 1931, was 'Launched' in 1932 and was first 'Commissioned' on 15th December 1932.

HMS STURGEON spent most of her War career in the North Sea mainly off the Scandinavian coast. On September 14, 1939 in what today would be called a 'Blue on Blue' incident she attacked her sister ship HMS SWORDFISH with three torpedoes but, luckily, they all missed. This took place off the coast of Norway. Because of this incident, the Admiralty increased the operating distance of British submarines off Norway from 4 miles to 16 miles. STURGEON later attacked the German submarine U-23, but failed to hit her. The Submarine claimed her first success when she sank the German A/S Trawler V-209 (formerly Gauleiter Teleshon) on 20th November 1939. The sinking of the V-209 was the first successful attack on an enemy ship by a British submarine in the WWII

STURGEON later went on to sink the German troop transport PIONIER, the Danish merchant vessel SIGRUN, the Norwegian merchant DELFINUS, and the German merchant BOLTENHAGEN. She also fired six torpedoes against the German submarine U-43, but they all missed their target. She was one of a number of submarines ordered to track the German battleship Bismarck before her eventual sinking.

HMS STURGEON was 'loaned' to the Royal Netherlands Navy from 11<sup>th</sup> October 1943 to 14<sup>th</sup> September 1945 and renamed ZEEHOND. She was

returned to the Royal Navy but was quickly disposed of and broken up at Granton from January 1946.

## **DISCLAIMER**

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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.

# 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.freeserve.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

#### A POEM

(from Ginge Cundall)

The Queen she gave me a medal, the one they call the P. Do.

It was bright shiny silver, with a ribbon of white and blue.

The Captain pinned it on my chest, for fifteen years of my time,

But my D.O. said that it was for years of undetected crime.

Along with it came a cheque, for the sum of fifty pound, They say that is for a deposit on a house, if one is found. From now on I have to be careful and not get caught

Because the Queen can take back her medal without any doubt.

But the money will be difficult, that's spread wide and far,

In ever Pompey Public House, spent over every bar.
Because why go out and spend it on only one place,
When it went so far and gave great joy in this particular
case

#### **HELP REQUIRED 1**

Nicola Crawford is trying to find the whereabouts of her godfather. He is Thomas Campbell Ritchie who is understood to have re-commissioned in the Port Crew of HMS REPULSE at Rosyth on 4th September 1982. The families lost touch when Nicola's family moved to Gosport to 1984 and T C Ritchie later moved to Barrow to work in the Ship Yard. One report says he then moved to Scotland but someone else thought he had moved to Spain! If anyone knows the whereabouts of Thomas Campbell Ritchie please let me know and I will try to put them in touch.

## **HELP REQUIRED 2**

Richard (Topsy) Turner served from 1956 to 1977 starting as an Able Seaman and finishing as a Coxswain. You might remember him from GRAMPUS, AMBUSH, ODIN (as UC1), OTTER & ORPHEUS as the Coxswain. He also served in the Tank and as an Escape Coxswain.

Topsy reports that, sadly, his brother Jim/David (Topsy) Turner 'Crossed the Bar' on 29th August. His brother also served in boats from the early 1950s in SOLENT,

THERMOPYLAE, ALCIDE, TEREDO and TACTICIAN.

Richard would like to know if anyone remembers his brother and would like to get in touch. If any members do remember Jim/Dave (Topsy) Turner let me know and I will put you in touch.

#### **HELP REQUIRED 3**

Message Received: Oct 01 2014, 10:03 PM From: frankglover1941@talktalk.net To: newsletter@rnsubs.co.uk

Cc

Message from Frank Glover at the Submariners Web Site

I was Captains Motorboat's crew on HMS MONTCLARE in 1953. We took the Captain ashore (Commander Stewart Armstrong 'Sam' Porter) and I am trying to find out where we took him - was it his Married Quarters? We used to collect firewood from around his dwelling. Can you please help?

FJH Glover PMX/920093

frankglover1941@talktalk.net

# <u>SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION - MEMBERS CROSSED THE BAR - SEPTEMBER 2014</u> RESURGAM

Branch	Date	Name	Rank/Rating	O/N	Age	Submarine Service
Non Member	14th Sep 2014	William John Braley	Petty Officer Stoker Mechanic	D/SKX 789389	83	Submarine Service from Oct 1946 to Nov 1953 in TRUNCHEON, TANTIVY, TALENT SLEUTH, THULE, ANDREW, SPORTSMAN, ALLIANCE, SELENE & SIDON
Submarine Officers Association	17 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2014	John Robert Wadman	Captain	N/A	83	Submarine Service from Mar 1947 in THOROUGH (47), ALLIANCE (47 NO), ANDREW (48 NO), SELENE (49), XE-8 (49), AUROCHS (51), AENEAS (53 1st LT), COQC (54), SPRINGER (54 CO), EXCALIBUR (57 CO), FINWHALE (60 CO), SO S/M Londonderry (62), CDR SM3 (66), REPULSE (Port) (CO 1st Commission 68) & Captain SM10
Submarine Officers Association	17 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2014	Kenneth Howard Mills	Captain	N/A	85	Submarine Service from 31st May 1950 in TABARD, TRUMP, TACITURN (IL), TUDOR (CO), ARTEMIS (CO), FINWHALE (CO) & RENOWN (S) CO 1st Commission 68)
HMS CAVALIER Association	19 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2014	Charles Thomson	PO Electrician later Mechanician (L)	P/M 893319	80	Submarine Service from Sep 1953 to Aug 1960 in SELENE, SLEUTH, SCORCHER, SIDON, SCOTSMAN, TUDOR & from Jun 1962 in OBERON & AMBUSH Survivor from SIDON
Australia Branch	21st Sep 2014	Ronald McKenzie	Engine Room Artificer 1st Class	TBA	83	Submarine Service from Nov 1954 to Aug 1961 in TELEMACHUS, ANDREW & TEREDO
Former Manchester Branch	24 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2014	Rod Winstanley	Leading Cook	TBA	77	Submarine Service from 1956 to 1961 in SLEUTH, TRUNCHEON, TIPTOE, TACITURN, ASTUTE & TUDOR
Non Member	18 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2014	David Roy Mitchell	Chief ME	ТВА	69	Submarine Service in GRAMPUS, SWIFTSURE & SPARTAN

Non Member	Sep 2014	Conrad (Danny) Danvers	Chief Marine Engineering Artificer	P/M 956306	ТВА	Submarine Service from Feb 1963 in CACHALOT (Jun 63), WALRUS Oct 64 to Sep 65), REPULSE (P) (Feb 67 – 1st Commission Crew on 28th Sep 68 & SUPERB (1st Commission Crew) on 13th Nov 76
Hull Branch	30th Sep 2014	John Babington	Stoker Mechanic	TBA	86	Submarine Service from Sep 46 to Apr 48 in TANTALUS, TRENCHANT & TEREDO
Cheltenham & West Midlands	Sep 2014	Alan Heaume	Radio Operator 2	TBA	68	Submarine Service from 1968 to 1973 in NARWHAL

# A Message from BLIND VETERANS UK (formerly St. DUNSTANS)



#### Free, lifelong support for ex-Service men and women with severe sight loss from Blind Veterans UK

Blind Veterans UK is the national charity for vision impaired ex-Service men and women. It doesn't matter how or when a veteran lost their sight, Blind Veterans UK will provide free, lifelong support to help them overcome the challenges of sight loss.

Blind Veterans UK believes that no one who has served our country should battle blindness alone. The charity helps with whatever someone needs to help them live independently with vision impairment – that could be anything from specialist equipment to help with reading at home to rehabilitation and training to help with mobility skills.

The charity has three service centres around the UK, in Brighton, Sheffield and Llandudno, North Wales. Each centre provides exceptional practical and emotional support to veterans, as well as offering sports, craft and social activities. Many find that Blind Veterans UK becomes a second family.

Blind Veterans UK's No One Alone campaign is reaching out to the estimated 68,000 blind or vision impaired veterans who could be eligible for support, but who are not currently receiving it. If you are a vision impaired veteran, or you know someone who is, and would like more information about Blind Veterans UK, **please call 0800 389 7979** or visit www.noonealone.org.uk.

#### Duke of Lancaster's Social at Fleetwood 25th October 2014

Another Social Event for your calendar! The Fleetwood Branch of the Duke of Lancaster's Regimental Association is holding a Social Event at their Fleetwood Club on Saturday 25th October 2014. The Event commemorates the Regiment's predecessors – the 34th (Cumberland) Regiment -involvement in the Battle of Arroyos dos Molinos where they annihilated a French corps under General Girard. The enemy force, when attacked, consisted of about 3,000 infantry, 1,600 cavalry and artillery. The result was the capture of one general (Bron), one colonel (the Prince d'Aremberg commander of the 27th Chasseurs), 35 lieutenant-colonels and inferior officers, 1,400 prisoners, and probably 500 killed. The prizes taken incuded six side-drums and the French Drum-Major's staff including the French grenadier company drum, the shell of which is emblazoned with three grenadier 'ball and flame' which had been presented to the 34e Regiment d'Infanterie de Ligne by none other Napoleon himself when the French regiment was founded in 1796. The drums and drum majors staff are on display in The Border Regiment museum, Carlisle Castle

Members of the Barrow Submariners Association and their partners have been invited to attend. There will be transport leaving Barrow for Fleetwood at 1030 and returning at 2300 but there will be some shared costs. The Fleetwood Branch will be providing entertainment both in the afternoon and evening and food is also provided in the afternoon and evening. Anyone wishing to attend or requiring further details should contact Albert Brennan by phone on 01229 472392 or via email on <a href="mailto:abrennan538@talktalk.net">abrennan538@talktalk.net</a>.

This is a very good event and well worth attending



# WALNEY SPONSORED WALK

## **ALL PROCEEDS TO LOCAL CHARITIES**

# SUNDAY, 5TH OCTOBER 2014

WALKER'S NAME:-	
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HMS WARSPITE – ARRIVING HOME FROM THE FALKLANDS

## SA ANNUAL CONFERENCE/ REUNION 2015

The Annual Reunion including the National Council Conference (NCC) for 2015 will be held at the Holiday Inn Leicester over the weekend of 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>rd</sup> March. The Conference itself will be on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

This Conference/ Reunion will be the first of what I hope will be many fully integrated events. This means that our ladies and friends will be welcomed for the Reunion but note that the Conference itself is strictly for the Full Members only. There will NOT be two separate Reunion Dinners as in the past but our ladies and friends will join us for the Reunion Dinner.

# **General**

The address of the hotel is 129, St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester, LE1 5LX. This is **NOT** to be confused with a Holiday Inn Express one of which is also in Leicester.

The hotel is located slap bang in the middle of Leicester, very adjacent to the large shopping malls, pubs and other places of interest, which I am sure you will find.

Car Parking is in a multi-story NCP car park, adjacent to the hotel. In fact you can off load passengers and luggage then turn left straight into the car park. Whilst it is normally quite expensive we have managed to negotiate a deal of £5 per night for those accommodated in the hotel.

There is a Health and Leisure Club, which offers a range of options to burn off some energy or to simply relax and unwind. The health club features an indoor swimming pool, gym, sauna, steam room and Jacuzzi all will help to get rid of that fuzzy feeling in the morning. Use of the gym is free to hotel residents.

#### Accommodation

I have reserved a total of 120 bedrooms in a mixture of Doubles, Twins, and Singles giving us a total of 200 beds. I can get more but this is subject to availability and early notification. There are no rooms on the ground floor, where all the public rooms, bars, restaurant, main dining room etc are located. All bedrooms are accessed by lifts which are well maintained. Although there are no fully disabled rooms there are a number of what are called easy accessible rooms. The showers are of the over the bath type.

We viewed a selection of rooms and found them all to be clean, spacious and all had TV, Tea and Coffee making facilities and a mini fridge.

#### **Meals**

The Friday evening meal will be a 3 course buffet style meal with a 2 choice starter, a 4 choice buffet main course (Chicken, Beef, Fish and Veggie) and a 2 choice buffet desert.

The Saturday evening Reunion Dinner will be a 4 course dinner with a 2 choice starter, an intermediate soup course, a 2 choice main course plus a vegetarian option and a 2 choice desert with ½ bottle of Wine per person and Port for the toast.

#### **The Most Important Room - Bar**

The bar tariff negotiated is, I believe, very good and reflects a 25% and in many cases a 30% reduction to their normal prices.

Draught Beer, Lager, Cider, Guinness & Becks	£ 2.80 per pint
Bottle Beers (Becks, Budweiser, Sol, Peroni, Heineken)	£12.00 for 5 bottles
House Rum, Vodka, Whiskey	£ 3.00
House Gin	£ 2.50
Mixers by the pump dash	£ 0.40
Mixers by the bottle	£ 1.00
House Red or White Wine (bottle)	£12.95
House Red or White Wine (1/2 bottle)	£ 8.95
House Red or White Wine (175ml glass)	£ 3.50
House Rose Wine (bottle)	£13.95
House Rose Wine (175ml glass)	£ 4.00

All other drinks will be at the normal hotel price.

#### Rates Note all rates are per person

Friday & Saturday nights	Dinner, Bed & Breakfast (Sharing Double/I	win)£125.00
Friday & Saturday nights	Dinner, Bed & Breakfast (Single)	£145.00
Friday Night Only	Dinner, Bed & Breakfast (Sharing Double/Twin)	£ 70.00
Friday Night Only	Dinner, Bed & Breakfast (Single)	£ 95.00
Saturday Night Only	Dinner, Bed & Breakfast (Sharing Double/Twin)	£ 80.00
Saturday Night Only	Dinner, Bed & Breakfast (Single)	£105.00
Additional night Thursday or Sunday	Bed & Breakfast (Sharing Double/Twin)	£ 35.00
Additional night Thursday or Sunday	Bed & Breakfast (Single)	£ 60.00
Non Resident Saturday Reunion Dinner	•	£ 37.00
Non Resident Friday Buffet Dinner		£ 22.00
Non Resident Tot Only		£ 3.00

# The Friday & Saturday rate, the Saturday only rate and the Non Resident Saturday Dinner includes your Tot, ½ bottle of wine and Port for the toast.

Attached to this Newsletter are two Applications, one for your accommodation requirement(s) and the other for the Saturday Reunion Dinner meal choices. Whilst applications via your secretary are welcome I am happy to accept applications from individual members, indeed that is the preferred method so that I can quickly ascertain the room requirements.

I would prefer full payment up front, but a £50 deposit per person for packages greater than that will be accepted but I do need the **FULL BALANCE** by **Friday 6th February 2015**. I have to declare the room requirements at that time and pass back any not sold.

Please remember to include your contact details including your postal address so that I can send your tickets or contact you if there is a query. Although this Circular and Application Form will be sent to all those members on e-mail I would ask all branch secretaries to get it out to your members as quickly as you can.

Please send your Applications and cheques to Dave Barlow at 84, Holbeck Park Ave, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA13 0SB. Tel 01229 831196. Email <a href="mailto:dave@davebarlow.plus.com">dave@davebarlow.plus.com</a>. Please make your cheques payable to the "Submariners Association" and NOT me. This causes a delay while I clear the cheque through my own bank before I pay the treasurer.

You will be aware that due to the very low take up by the time I had to declare the room take up, the final mixed reunion was cancelled. I have since found out that quite a number of you were going to book but had left it until the last minute. I cannot take that risk as I have to pay for the rooms or pass them back. So, please book early to prevent a repeat. Your deposit will be returnable up to the time I have to declare the rooms so you do not gain anything by hanging back.

Best Regards

Dave Barlow

#### 000000SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION REUNION APPLICATION FRIDAY 27th MARCH - SUNDAY 29th MARCH 2015

RANCH:						
Packages	A	£125	Frid & Sat Dinner B&B (SHARING DOUBLE/TWIN) - Per Person	Тн	£60	Additional Night Thurs B&B (SINGLE)
	В		Frid & Sat Dinner B&B (SINGLE)	1	£35	Additional Night Sun B&B (SHARING DOUBLE/TWIN) Per Person
	C		Frid Night Only Dinner B&B (SHARING DOUBLE/TWIN) - Per Person	J		Additional Night Sunday B&B (SINGLE)
	D		Frid Night Only Dinner B&B (SINGLE)	K	£37	Non Resident Saturday Reunion Dinner includes Tot, Wine & Port
	E		Sat Night Only Dinner B&B (SHARING DQUBLE/TWIN) - Per Person	L	£22	Non Resident Friday Buffet Dinner
	F		Sat Night Only Dinner B&B (SINGLE)	M	£3	Tot for Non Resident
	G	£35	Additional Night Thurs B&B (SHARING DOUBLE/TWIN) Per Person			the state of the s

SURNAME	FIRST NAME					SE	LECT	PACK	AGE(s	3)								Special requirements Disabled or Who to share with in Double/ e Twin
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All <u>hotel</u> cancellations must be made to <u>Dave Barlow</u> as soon as possible and <u>not</u> direct to the hotel Add any other supporting information or requirements on a separate sheet if necessary Submit applications to Dave Barlow, 84 Holbeck Park Ave, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. LA13 0SB. Tel 01229 831196 Make Cheques Payable to "Submariners Association" and NOT me please. Please include your contacts details

#### 000000SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION REUNION 2015 SATURDAY REUNION DINNER MEAL CHOICES

DDANIGHT	
HRANGH.	

STARTERS	S1	Goats Cheese Tart, Cherry Tomato, Rocket Leaves with pesto dressing					
	S2	Ardennes Pate, Sour Dough bread, mixed leaf salad, red onion relish					
INTERMEDIATE	11	Leek and Potato Soup (V)					
	M1	Chicken Supreme wrapped in bacon, seasonal vegetables, new potatoes served with a pepper sauce					
MAIN COURSE M2		Lamp Rump with Rosemary Mash Potato, seasonal vegetables served with a red wine sauce					
	M3	Mushroom & Tarragon Tart with Herb Cream Sauce, new potatoes and seasonal vegetables (V)					
DESSERTS	D1	Lemon Tart with Chantilly Cream, mixed berry compote					
	D2	Warm Apple Pie with Vanilla Ice Cream					
WINE	R or W	Red or White - 1/2 bottle per person					

Please enter your selection with a 'Y' in the appropriate boxes

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Please note that this is a 4 course meal with an intermediate Soup Course between the Starter and Main Courses.