



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: THE 'USUAL CREW' WITH THE KORBRA AT FLEETWOOD

EDITORIAL

Your December Newsletter brings me to the end of the first year as editor – doesn't time fly! The cover picture this month shows our four intrepid members who attended the KORBRA Social at Fleetwood. Bob Faragher's report of the visit was in last month's issue.

In all it has been a very busy year for the Branch. As well as the monthly meetings –several where we invited the ladies and had a quiz organised by Alex – members have been involved in organising and attending Events and Socials every month. A Summary of the Branches activities shows how busy it has been! January saw the annual K13 Weekend in Faslane, February was the 'First Footing' to Morecambe and the 'Corporate' footie which was well attended and March was the SA Conference & Reunion and a Dog Racing evening at the RBL. The April meeting was our AGM and events were the ANZAC Day Ceremony, the St. George's Day Parade and the Branch Dinner at the Crofters. May was busy as well with the very popular Canal Trip, stewarding for the K2B Walk and the Barrow Bike Races, the Vandal/Untamed Remembrance in Scotland and the Alliance Rededication at Gosport. June saw Branch Members attending the Civic Sunday ceremonies, Veterans Day Flag Raising and the unveiling of the Navy Memorial at the National Arboretum.

July was a quiet month – just the Cartmel Races event and August saw the Annual Barbecue at the Crofters and the WWI Commemoration Parade arranged jointly by the Tri-Services Associations and the RBL. September was busy with another Race Night at the RBL, the AE1 Memorial Parade and the Battle of Britain Parade. October was quieter with a Race Evening at the RBL, the Sea Cadets Trafalgar Night Dinner and the K2B Awards Evening but November was busier again with Ladies Night Dinner at the Fairways, the AE1 & AE2 Wreath Laying and the Remembrance Day Parade, the Fleetwood KORBRA visit and stewarding for the Christmas Lights 'Switch On'. In December we can look forward to a Social Evening at the Branch Meeting, the Children's Christmas Party on the 19th and the Branch Christmas Social at the RBL on the 20th December. All in all a very busy year and thanks are due to all Members involved with both the organisation of and support for all these events.

This month the Newsletter includes the next in the series covering WWII Submariner Victoria Cross holders. Although there were no Submarine losses in December 1914 there was a reminder about the dangers of service in Submarines. If you wondered about the Submarine Memorial Fund there is an article explaining the arrangements and listing recent contributors to the fund. There is also an item about the newest Russian Submarine and the US Navy's interest in it and another item about the US Navy's work on getting rid of that well known submarine smell.

At the end you will find an article I found in an old copy of Navy News – it was a bit of a PR attempt to encourage Submariners to volunteer for Faslane (back in 1959 when the Third Division North moved from Rothesay to Faslane). Very interesting at the moment when there seems to be some reluctance of Devonport based Submariners to move north with the planned 'T' Boat move to a single Submarine Base at Faslane. Please enjoy your December Edition of 'Periscope View' 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**

CHAIRMAN'S DIT
DECEMBER 2014



Hi to you all

I must start off by congratulating Alex on organising such a good Ladies Night once again. The venue did us proud, good food well served and presented, a far cry from the pile of vegetable mush we used to get. Those that didn't make it missed out on a great night. It was still going well when I had to leave as I had to be up and on the road by 06.00 for another function up in Scotland which started at midday. Because of that I missed the Remembrance Day parade in Barrow. I am told that the turnout was excellent from the Branch but that the weather turned against us. I have noted with disappointment bordering towards anger really that despite the three veterans associations asking the Town Hall yet again to fit a better system of preventing the wreaths from flying away it has fell on deaf ears. I guess their priorities lie elsewhere?

Last Saturday seven of us turned up to assist the council in stewarding the Christmas Light Switch extravaganza. Fortunately our area was behind the stage and therefore behind the speakers but I still had to turn my hearing aids off. How the youngsters can suffer that noise beats me or is it me just getting old. We had our usual crop of lost children but overall it was a good day and with our

high viz bibs with the association crest it was good PR for us.

The December meeting will see us having the Artful and Audacious crews coming along in droves (or so I'm told) with Artful presenting the branch with their boats crest. To make the occasion Alex has arranged some food and a quick quiz. The meeting is open to your wives, girlfriends and mistresses but don't bring all at once. Audacious were also intending to present a plaque but as the submarine hasn't yet been officially named this will have to wait for a future date.

If anybody has anything to bring up at the National Conference then this meeting is your last opportunity to air it so that the branch can debate it if necessary. On that theme if you intend to attend the reunion in Leicester then I need your applications in as soon as you can. A reminder that the reunion is now open to your wives and friends so you can make it a good weekend. Well, that's all for now. See you Tuesday.

Dave

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Hello

Christmas is nearly upon us so let me wish you all a happy Christmas and a long and prosperous new year. By now you should have heard that I am back on line and you should be receiving e-mails from me. If you have not received an e-mail from me please send me one at ronhiseman@btinternet.com and I will update my address book.

The good news is that my work in London is coming to an end and I should be able to attend meetings starting from January, so hopefully Barrie can relax at meetings.

I have heard nothing from members regarding changes to National rules and the deadline has now passed, however that mean that our Branch AGM is starting to loom on the horizon in April so if you have any thoughts on our rules then let a Committee member know so the committee can discuss them.

At the AGM both the Secretary and the Vice Chairman positions are up for re-election so if you feel you wish to make a contribution to the Branch please let me or an officer of the Branch know.

Kindest regards
Ron

SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT



Hi Shipmates,

November we had the Ladies Night Dinner Dance at the Fairways; attended by eighty five and I have had positive feedback all round. At the end of the night a lot of interest was shown in Sean Connery, Pierce Brosnan and Daniel Craig so we auctioned them off and raised £170 pounds for disabled children to go to the pantomime; a special thanks goes to Eileen Downie, Angela Bloomer and Carole Ellis. Thank you for supporting this evening and making it a really good event.

Diary Check:

Friday 19th December children's Christmas party from 1 – 4 at the Legion, which is sold out; in fact the tickets were put on sale at the November meeting and were gone within 7 days.

Saturday 20th December is the adult Christmas party, Kickoff at 19:30 cost £3 which gives you live entertainment from Steve Silver, disco and food. Also there will be a raffle (lots of very good prizes which include vouchers, slow cooker, herb jars, special prizes for the ladies and the normal alcohol. It will be a great party and I predict a good time to be had by all. In addition there will be a special member's draw; this will

consist of 4 tickets being drawn with the possibility of each ticket winning £25 pounds. If any or all of the prizes are not won then the money will be combined for a last continuous draw where one member in the room will win that amount. To qualify for this you must be present (obviously having bought a very reasonably priced ticket; remember it is a ticket only entry) your number has to be drawn and you need to be a paid up member on my list; so pay your £3 with the possibility of getting £100 back.

The December meeting is going to be a 'special' meeting where HMS Ambush will be presenting the branch with a plaque. Therefore, ladies are welcome; there will be food and an extension to our bar – with maybe a short quiz. As always at the meetings I run a raffle and the members (free) draw which was won in November by Bob Hagen (again) so we are now at £5 for the December meeting.

I have produced the social calendar for 2015, included are; the 'First Footing' to the Morecambe Branch, cabaret night, corporate footie, branch dinner, canal cruise, Cartmel races, BBQ, race nights, quizzes, LNDD and the end of year Christmas parties. There must be something amongst that lot to entice you to come out and have a few beers with the rest of the members. Join in and please support these functions and make 2015 the best social year we have had under my tenure.

Alex Webb
Social Secretary

The Submarine Memorial Fund

The Submarine Memorial Fund (S/M Fund) is administered as a restricted fund by the RNBT. The S/M Fund is used to support current and former rating submariners and their dependants and is augmented from the RNBT's general fund for supporting submariner members of The RNBT Family when required; there is seldom sufficient money in the S/M Fund to meet the demand.

There is no endowment associated with the S/M Fund, it is a case of money in - money out in support of requests for assistance. Grants made are subject to the same criteria as all individual grants made by the RNBT.

1. How is the fund administered?

The S/M Fund is administered by the RNBT with grants approved by the RNBT's Grants Committee who are themselves serving or former sailors and marines who served as Warrant Officers and below. The Grant Committee meets every Monday and Thursday (other than Bank Holidays) to deal with the 60 or so requests for assistance received by the RNBT every week.

2. How can members of the Submariners Association benefit from it?

Those who are serving or have served as ratings in HM Submarines and the widows, orphans and dependants of

such men can make application to the RNBT for assistance from this fund (and others held by the Trust). Each application needs to be referred via a case-working organisation the main ones being SSAFA or The Royal British Legion (TRBL) whose local phone numbers can be found in the directory. A case-worker would visit the applicant and raise an application on your member's behalf.

3) How can members or their relatives make donations or bequests to the fund?

We are always very grateful for donations and bequests which will aid our works and such monies can be gifted in various ways. Cheque's can be forwarded to the Trust at any time and the donor can specify the fund they wish to support. The Trust is able to provide a direct debit form on application or a form can be downloaded from our website. Donations by a credit/debit card can also be made via our website - www.rnbt.org.uk. We are also able to provide Gift Aid declarations to make the most cost effective donations. Each donation is recorded monthly on our website and in our Annual Review that is published in October.

Legacies are also an important source of income for the RNBT. If any of your members wish to remember the RNBT in their Wills, we can advise on the appropriate

wording by either reference to our web site - www.rnbt.org.uk or by calling 02390 690112 and asking to speak to the Financial Controller.

4) **How can members make requests for a grant and is there any criteria laid down to receive that assistance?**

As indicated above, applications are made via SSAFA or TRBL with our Grant Administrators always available for advice by e-mail or telephone. There are no fixed criteria to receive specific assistance as each case is considered on its merit; if one of your members has a need or is in distress, refer them to us and we will advise on the way ahead.

5) **When contacting the RNBT with regard to any aspect of the Submariners Memorial Fund who is the first point of contact?**

The Trust can be contacted by e-mail at rnbt@mbt.org.uk, by phone on 02392 660296 or by mail at "The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust, Castaway House, 311, Twyford Avenue, PORTSMOUTH, P02 8RN". Welfare queries will normally be actioned within the Grants Department, but the Chief Executive will be kept informed of any contact where appropriate.

7) **Is there anyone from the Submariner Community either serving or retired involved as Trustees of the fund?**

There are currently no serving or former submariners serving as trustees or on the Grant Committee although there has been in the past and hopefully will be again in the future. The Trust is always looking to attract new members to serve on the Grant Committee and prospective new members (who must have served as ratings in the RN) should contact the RNBT on 02392 660296 and ask to speak to a Grant Administrator. Volunteers will be invited to attend one of the regular grant meetings (held Monday & Thursday) where they will be hosted by the Chairman or in the case of prolonged absence, by the Deputy Chairman or a Trustee. Please note, members of the Grant Committee do not have to be trustees but several trustees also serve on the Grant Committee. Prospective Grant Committee members will have the workings of the Trust explained to them and be shown the grant making process. Newcomers will be invited to attend Grant Committee meetings in an observer's role to determine if they want to make a commitment to work with the Trust. Members of the Grant Committee are not expected to attend all meetings but are required to attend enough meetings to remain current with the Trust's workings and the Committee's instructions and working practices.

Periodic elections are held for trustee positions, period of service is 3 years, with the next round scheduled for Jan-Feb next year.

8) **Does the fund still receive any donations/income from the Royal Naval Submarine Museum or other sources?**

Details of income for the year to date and the previous 5 years are:

Date	Description	£
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16-Apr-08	Submariners Association	450
30-Apr-08	2nd SM Squadron Reunion	304
04-Jun-08	Pitkeathly M W	285
19-Jun-08	The Salters Company	1,500
23-Jul-08	Pitkeathly M W	45
23-Jul-08	Submariners Association	100
31-Jul-08	Waltham Abbey Church	239
27-Jan-09	Belton-Perkin family & friends	178
16-Feb-09	RN Submarine Museum	4,372
27-Mar-09	Willoughby Family & friends	204
2008/09	Total	7,677
30-Jun-09	The Salters Company	1,500
30-Oct-09	Submariners Association	200
10-Nov-09	Submariners Association	250
01-Dec-09	Rogers HC from family & friends	273
08-Mar-10	RN Submarine Museum	2,052
17-Mar-10	Sunshine Squadron Reunion	430
2009/10	Total	4,706
12-May-10	SA Dorset Branch	1,000
21-Jun-10	The Salters Company	1,500
22-Oct-10	Brown F from family & friends	693
31-Mar-11	RN Submarine Museum	1,023
2010/11	Total	4,216
20-Jun-11	Salters' Company	1,500
13-Jul-11	SA Morecombe Bay Branch	138
27-Mar-12	RN Submarine Museum	1,047
2011/12	Total	2,685
18-Jun-12	The Salters Company	1,500
17-Jul-12	Chatham Historic Dockyard	800
2012/13	Total	2,300
07-Jun-13	RN Submarine Museum	544
17-Jun-13	Salters' Company	1,500
10-Jul-13	Huntley AJ	200
2013/14	Total to date	2,244

U.S. Navy Impressed with New Russian Attack

Boat

By: **Dave Majumdar**

Published: **October 28, 2014 4:24 PM**



Russian Project 885 submarine during sea trials

One of the U.S. Navy's top submarine officers was so impressed with Russia's new Project 885 nuclear attack boats that he had a model of K-329 *Severodvinsk* built for his office.

Rear Adm. Dave Johnson, Naval Sea Systems Command's (NAVSEA) program executive officer (PEO) submarines said he had the model of *Severodvinsk* placed outside his office in a common area so that he could look at it every day on his way to his office.

"We'll be facing tough potential opponents. One only has to look at the *Severodvinsk*, Russia's version of a [nuclear guided missile submarine] (SSGN). I am so

impressed with this ship that I had Carderock build a model from unclassified data.” Johnson said last week during the Naval Submarine League’s symposium in Falls Church, Va. “The rest of the world’s undersea capability never stands still.”

The Russian attack boat had been in construction since 1993 and only entered sea trials late in 2011. The boat finally became operational earlier this year. A cash-strapped Russian Federation had to repeatedly delay completion of the submarine in the chaos that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Severodvinsk is the most capable Russian attack submarine ever built and leverages many of the technologies the Soviet Union invested in during the 1970s and 1980s.



Model of Russian submarine Severodvinsk built for NAVSEA

(US Naval Institute Photo)

The 13,800-ton, 390-foot long, submarine is highly automated vessel with a crew of only 32 officers and 58 enlisted submariners. It is far quieter than previous Russian submarines and has a maximum “silent” speed of about 20 knots.

The U.S. Naval Institute’s Combat Fleets of the World said some reports suggest the vessel might have a maximum speed of between 35 and 40 knots. However, most Russian reports state a maximum speed of 35 knots. Like most new nuclear submarine designs, Severodvinsk’s reactor is designed to last for the life of the boat.

According the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI), while the new Russian submarine is quieter than the Improved Los Angeles-class boats, the new vessel is not quite as silent as the Seawolf or Virginia-class. However, the Soviets were always only lagging slightly behind U.S. in quieting technology according to Navy sources. The Russians are already building improved versions of the Yasen design.

Unlike most Soviet submarine designs, the Yasen-class boats do not make use of a double-hull—instead it has hybrid design with a lighter structure over the vessel’s pressure hull according to Russia media reports.

Another unique feature for a Russian vessel is that it incorporates a spherical bow sonar called the Irtys-Amfora for the first time. As a result, *Severodvinsk* has its torpedo tubes located at about mid-ship like U.S. submarines. The vessel has eight torpedo tubes, four of which are 650mm tubes while the rest are 533mm tubes. Combat Fleets of the World estimates that the Yasen-class might carry as many as 30 torpedoes.

Like most Russian attack submarines, the vessel’s primary weapons are in the form of heavy anti-ship missiles. The boat has 24 missile tubes which can carry the supersonic NPO Mashinostroyeniya P-800 Oniks anti-ship missile which can hit targets roughly 200 nautical miles away. *Severodvinsk* can also carry Novator RK-55 Granat nuclear-capable 1,600 nautical mile-range subsonic land attack cruise missiles. Additionally, the Yasen-class boats can also launch the 3M14 Kalibr and 3M54 Biryuza land attack and anti-ship missiles, which have a roughly 300-mile range, though its torpedo tubes.

It also carries 91R anti-submarine missiles and has the capability to lay mines along with its normal complement of torpedoes.

Some Russian sources such as ‘Russia Beyond the Headlines’ suggest that *Severodvinsk* is equipped with active anti-torpedo defenses and some sort of anti-air capability. The later would not be unprecedented, the Project 941 Akula—known better as the Typhoon-class ballistic missile submarine—was equipped with a 9K38 Iгла surface-to-air missile system for ship self-defense.

Russia is expected to build eight Yasen-class boats. Since *Severodvinsk* took almost two decades to finish, the subsequent boats have many technological refinements to improve on the original Project 885 design. The next two Yasen-class boats are already under construction at the Sev mash shipyards in Severodvinsk, Russia. *Kazan* was laid down in July of 2009 while *Novosibirsk* was laid down July of 2013.

We Remember Submariners

By Ken Collins

We have sold 200 "We Remember Submariner" 1914/2014 pins and the monies raised have been split accordingly. They were originally selling for £5.50p however I decided that £5 was enough therefore we took the hit for the 50p, WRS were sent a bank transfer for £550 and the branch will be given a cheque for £450 at the December meeting in the RBL.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Jan Mead, Ron and Lyn Hiseman, Julian Bond from Audacious and my family - Lilian, Granddaughter Kelly and Jason for all their help and support in selling these pins for the Branch.

The "We Remember Submariners" group, does a great job with regards Wreaths, Mollie Pins and donations to various charities such as the RBL. They would be interested in hearing what we do with our share although they are more than happy for it to reside in our charity chest for future distribution. I would personally suggest we donate some, if not all to our local RBL as the pins were sold on the Centenary of the Great War, however this is up to the Branch.

Cockleshell Heroes Memorial Seat

Just to let you know that on the 25th April 2015 we will be dedicating the Cockleshell Heroes Memorial Seat and HMS TUNA, Royal Marines and French plaques, which are situated in the Allied Special Forces Memorial Grove

at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire, DE13 7AR. This is an open event.
Regards, Mike Colton, Project Manager
Mike Colton
mikecolton@hotmail.com

SWEETER SMELLING SUBMARINES?

New Nanomaterial Takes the Stink Out of Submarine Air

Desperate for a breath of fresh air

By David C. Duncan US Navy

On a US Navy submarine, every breath you inhale has been repeatedly exhaled from the mouths of about 120 other people. This isn't as suffocating, or gross, as it sounds, because submarines have ventilation systems that take the CO₂ out of the air, and recirculate it with chemically catalyzed oxygen. I take that back, the air is gross, because the chemical used to remove CO₂ smells like old diesel mixed with a dash of sulphur, and it permeates everything on board. This chemical, called amine, is known by every submariner (I was one for 3 years), as well as every submariner's wife, husband, or anyone else who encounters that sailor's laundry. However, a new CO₂-capturing nanomaterial could bring an end to this most notorious of submarine smells (trust me, there are others).

Unlike amine, which is a liquid, the new material looks like sand. In fact, it is sand, except it is covered with tiny pores, each filled with molecules that selectively pull CO₂ out of the airstream. Together, sand grain and molecule are called Self Assembled Monolayers on Mesoporous Supports (SAMMS). The pores create nooks and crannies that let even a small amount of the material soak up an incredible amount of CO₂—a teaspoon of the material has slightly less surface area than a football field. And it's reversible. "With a slight amount of heat, you can also open that molecule back up and release the CO₂, making it possible to use the same material over and over again," said Ken Rappe, an engineer at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory who worked on SAMMS.

There are many different types of SAMMS, each designed to bind with a specific molecule. They were originally engineered to pull mercury and other contaminants out of industrial waste streams, Rappe says. The CO₂-binding version was identified by accident over a decade ago, when a scientist accidentally dropped a sample of the stuff in a glass of water. The sample started fizzing. Some experiments showed that this fizzing was the water dissolving stored carbon. At the time, carbon capture and storage wasn't a huge research interest (besides, SAMMS likes its CO₂ cool, and coal power emissions or automobile exhausts are too hot to capture), and the researchers searched for an application before a colleague pointed them to the problem of funky sub air.

Amine doesn't just stink, it's also highly corrosive and will ruin anything not made of stainless steel. This makes it a huge maintenance burden, as it needs to be flushed and moved into storage whenever it gets saturated with CO₂. The sandy SAMMS would alleviate this, as it doesn't need special storage. "When you go from a liquid to a solid, you're able to get rid of all the pumps and tanks," said Jay Smith, an engineer at the Naval Ships Engineering Station, Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division (NAVSSS) in Philadelphia who has been getting the SAMMS-based replacement ready for deployment. "It's also safer, and more environmentally friendly to dispose of," she said.

Changing out life support equipment on a submarine isn't trivial (no matter how reviled the piece of equipment). Rappe and his research partners spent years improving the material before turning it over to the Navy. Since then, Smith and her colleagues have been testing the prototype SAMMS ventilation system specifically for submarines. She says the prototype is currently going through long-term testing with lab-simulated sub air. It could then be deployed on future submarines joining the fleet. Smith also noted that the SAMMS technology has already been evaluated successfully at sea through small scale test units.

SUBMARINER VICTORIA CROSS HOLDERS OF WWII

The following is the twelfth 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.

Leading Seaman James Joseph Magennis, VC, MiD, O/M D/JX 144907 (Dev)

James 'Mick' Magennis was drafted to HMS VARBEL (12th Submarine Flotilla) at Port Bannantyne 'for X Craft Duties'. He was later drafted to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS BONAVENTURE at Port Bannantyne. HMS BONAVENTURE was sent to the Far East with a Flotilla of XE-Craft – now designated at the 14th Submarine Flotilla and based at Subic Bay. Mick Magennis was selected as the Diver of Submarine XE-3 which tasked to carry out an attack on the Japanese Cruiser TAKAO at Singapore. HMS

BONAVENTURE moved to a new base at Labuan Island closer to Singapore before launching the attack. Leaving at about noon on 26th Jul 1945 Submarine XE-3 was towed to her launch point by Submarine HMS STYGIAN (Lt Guy C Clarabut, DSO, DSC, RN. For the tow XE-3 was manned by a Passage Crew led by Sub Lieutenant Frank Ogden, RNVR. With about forty miles to go to the target the 'Passage Crew' was relieved by the 'Operational Crew' and the attack commenced at approximately 1100 on 30th Jul 1945. The attack is described as follows:

During the long approach up the Singapore Straits XE-3 deliberately left the believed safe

channel and entered mined waters to avoid suspected hydrophone posts. The target was aground, or nearly aground, both fore and aft, and only under the midship portion was there just sufficient water for XE-3 to place herself under the cruiser. For forty minutes XE-3 pushed her way along the seabed until finally Lieutenant Fraser managed to force her right under the centre of the cruiser. Here he placed the limpets and dropped his main side charge. Great difficulty was experienced in extricating the craft after the attack had been completed, but finally XE-3 was clear, and commenced her long return journey out to sea. The courage and determination of Lieutenant Fraser are beyond all praise. Any man not possessed of his relentless determination to achieve his object in full, regardless of all consequences, would have dropped his side charge alongside the target instead of persisting until he had forced his submarine right under the cruiser. The approach and withdrawal entailed a passage of 80 miles through water which had been mined by both the enemy and ourselves, past hydrophone positions, over loops and controlled minefields, and through an anti-submarine boom.'

After the attack XE-3 successfully met up with HMS STYGIAN and the Operational Crew relieved by the Passage Crew after some 50 hours without sleep. James 'Mick' Magennis was awarded the Victoria Cross, as was his Commanding Officer - Ian Fraser. The other two Officers were awarded the DSO and the Engine Room Artificer was awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal. London Gazette, 13 November 1945

Jahore Straits, Singapore, 31 July 1945, Acting Leading Seaman James Joseph Magennis, Royal Navy.

Leading Seaman Magennis served as Diver in His Majesty's Midget Submarine XE-3 for her attack on 31st July 1945, on a Japanese cruiser of the Atago class.

Owing to the fact that XE-3 was tightly jammed under the target the diver's hatch could not be fully opened, and Magennis had to squeeze himself through the narrow space available. He experienced great difficulty in placing his limpets on the bottom of the cruiser owing both to the foul state of the bottom and to the pronounced slope upon which the limpets would not hold. Before a limpet could be placed therefore Magennis had thoroughly to scrape the area clear of barnacles, and in order to secure the limpets he had to tie them in pairs by a line passing under the cruiser keel.

This was very tiring work for a diver, and he was moreover handicapped by a steady leakage of oxygen which was ascending in bubbles to the surface. A lesser man would have been content to place a few limpets and then to return to the craft. Magennis, however, persisted until he had placed

his full outfit before returning to the craft in an exhausted condition.

Shortly after withdrawing Lieutenant Fraser endeavoured to jettison his limpet carriers, but one of these would not release itself and fall clear of the craft. Despite his exhaustion, his oxygen leak and the fact that there was every probability of his being sighted, Magennis at once volunteered to leave the craft and free the carrier rather than allow a less experienced diver to undertake the job. After seven minutes of nerve-racking work he succeeded in releasing the carrier.

Magennis displayed very great courage and devotion to duty and complete disregard for his own safety.

James Magennis was invested with his Victoria Cross by King George VI at Buckingham Palace on the 11th December 1945 at the same time as his Commanding Officer Lieutenant Ian Fraser, VC.



Mick Magennis's Victoria Cross and other medals are on display in the Ashcroft Gallery in the Imperial War Museum in London.

BRANCH CALENDAR

December Branch Meeting	2 nd December
Children's Christmas Party	19 th December
Branch Christmas Social	20 th December
Committee Meeting	As required

BRANCH BIRTHDAYS DECEMBER 2014

P.G. (Paul) Douglas	03/12/1965
G.S. (Stan) Livingston	06/12/1947
M. (Mick) Bown	15/12/1945
M.J. (Mike) Dack	17/12/1936
K. (Ken) Collins	19/12/1946
N.S. (Mo) Morrison	07/12/1955
D.H. (David) Taylor	23/12/1975
D. Cattroll	28/12/1957
D. (Daniel) Carter	29/12/1978
T.D. (Terence) Pyne	31/12/1934
C. (Colin) Lee	31/12/1933
D Thompson	31/12/1946

Happy Birthday to you all!

SUBMARINE LOSSES OF WWI

This is the fourth article in a series listing Submarine losses month by month during WWI and the Crew Members lost.

As it happens no submarines were lost in December 1914 however submarining remained dangerous and, on the last day of the year, a member of the crew of

Submarine was washed overboard and lost. He was twenty one year old Telegraphist James Alexander Smith O/N J7022 originally from Edinburgh. He is commemorated on the Chatham Naval War Memorial on Panel No. 3.

HMS ONYX

(Seen on E Bay)

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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 December for the January 2015 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!

Northern Ireland Branch 'Cold War Pin

Seventeen Members took me up on the 'Cold War Pin' sponsored by the Northern Ireland Branch. I now have

these seventeen Pins and will be handing them over at the December Meeting on Tuesday 2nd December. I now have another eight Pins available these will also be available at the Meeting – first come – first served - as long as you give me £4.00 first!

Barrie Downer

SUBMARINE THRILLER PLUNGES INTO CUBAN CRISIS

'Terror on the ALERT'

This book review is taken from the December 2014 edition of the WARSHIPS International Fleet Review magazine.

'Terror on the Alert' is a Cold War thriller set at the height of tensions between the West and the Soviet Union during the Cuban Missile Crisis of late 1962.

Written by Canadian retired submarine officer Robert W. Mackay, the novel takes us aboard the A Class diesel boat HMCS ALERT. Her mission is to seek out and shadow Russian submarines and be prepared to destroy them if necessary.

There is high tension from the start, with the main character, a junior officer named Ted, troubled by trauma-induced claustrophobia resulting from a recent car accident in which he was trapped in burning wreckage.

Ted's condition gradually worsens and threatens his ability to function. To add to Ted's misery, his XO is the last man on earth he would wish to have as a superior officer. There is a mutual dislike going back to when they trained together.

At sea, though, the business of hunting hostile submarines seems to overcome such differences. When a Soviet boat is detected a deadly cat-and-mouse game ensues and not only do tensions rise between ALERT and the other boat, they also reach an explosive state between Ted and the XO.

While the Russian submarine, aware of Alert's presence adopts an increasingly aggressive stance, the plot takes a bizarre turn for the worse with the XO running amok after secreting weapons about the vessel.

Without doubt Mackay exhibits a compelling writing style and brings his experience as a submariner to bear with great effect. The way he conveys the deadly game of hunter versus hunted under water oozes suspense and is totally believable. However, events between 'our hero' and the XO, stretch credibility too far. The rest of the story, particularly ALERT's encounter with her nemesis, makes for a really good read and delivers thrills aplenty."

Available from Amazon in Paper Back (£10.79) and Kindle (£5.99)

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: TouchWood Editions (23 Sep 2014)

ISBN-10: 1771510811

ISBN-13: 978-1771510813

CROSSED THE BAR NOVEMBER 2014

Branch	Date	Name	Rank/Rating	O/N	Age	Submarine Service
Dolphin Branch	Mar 2014	Paul Whitfield	Radio Supervisor	TBA	76	Submarine Service served from 1958 to 1972 in SCOTSMAN (58-59), ALCIDE (60-62), ALLIANCE (63-67) & ONSLAUGHT(69-70)
Submarine Officers Association	13 th Oct 2014	Geoffrey A Everett	Temp Lieutenant	TBA	83	Submarine Service in OPOSSUM, OLYMPUS, WALRUS & DOLPHIN
Non Member	21 st Oct 2014	Allan Simmonds	Ordnance Electrical Mechanic	TBA	72	Submarine Service from 1963 to 1968 on TOKEN (Part 3) & AURIGA (65 to 67)
Merseyside Branch	26 th Oct 2014	Dennis Gittins	Leading Seaman	TBA	85	Submarine Service from 1949 to 1954 in ALDERNEY, TURPIN & TRESPASSER
Eastern States Branch	1 st Nov 2014	Peter Silas (Sam) Serbert	Charge Chief(EL)(M)	P/M 933257	77	Submarine Service from Nov 1956 to Jul 1977 in ANCHORITE, TELEMACHUS, ALARIC & DREADNOUGHT (1st Commission Crew) in Apr 1963 & COURAGEOUS (1st Commission Crew) on 16 th Oct 1971
Resolution Association	1 st Nov 2014	A Ellis	Fleet Chief Medical Assistant	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service in REVENGE (P) 1 st Commission on 4 th Dec 1969 & RESOLUTION
Non Member	2 nd Nov 2014	Clive Fiford	TBA	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service in the 1950s TBA
Royal Berkshire Branch	4 th Nov 2014	Reginald Stokoe	Able Seaman	TBA	88	Submarine Service from 1947 to 1950 in ALLIANCE, TRUCULENT, SENTINEL, TRUMP, TRADEWIND & TURPIN
Non Member	4 th Nov 2014	Norman J D Enoksen	Temp Lieutenant	TBA	73	Submarine Service TBA
Australia Branch	11 th Nov 2014	L (Pat) Cullum	LM(E)	P/KX 902803	81	Submarine Service from July 1953 to March 1963 in SLEUTH, TACITURN, THOROUGH, TELEMACHUS, SUBTLE, TRENCHANT, TAPIR on Commissioning on 27 th Jan 1961 & TABARD
West of Scotland Branch	17 th Nov 2014	Robert L Cantley	Able Seaman	P/SSX 899476	79	Submarine Service from Apr 1954 to 1960 in AENEAS (54), ACHERON (54-57), TAPIR (58-59) & TALLY HO (59-60)
Submarines Association of Australia	19 th Nov 2014	Peter J Girard	Commander WESM	N/A	N/A	Submarine Service from 1966 to 1980 in TRUMP (66/67), SWIFTSURE (68 to 74), Submarine School & FOSM Staff

Non Member	20th Nov 2014	Geoffrey Ronald Brill-Edwards, MiD	Temp Acting Stoker Petty Officer	N/A	96	Submarine Service from 1st Apr 1940 to 15th Nov 1944 in L23 (7th May 1940 to 26th Sep 1941, P46 (UNRUFFLED), MEDWAY (SC 1st May 1944 to 17 Sep 1944) & DOLPHIN (SC 18th Sep 1944 to 15th Nov 1944)
Sussex Branch	Nov 2014	John Hopkins	ME1	TBA	84	Submarine Service served from 1958 to 1964 in AMBUSH, TEREDO & TOKEN

THIRD DIVISION NORTH **Britain's Forward Line**

(From the Navy News No. 47 April 1958)

"Hey, Knocker! Just got a pierhead jump to Adamant at Faslane." "Where on earth's that?" "Blowed if I know, there's no mention of the place in the timetable." "Expect it's one of them shore bases in the Antarctic.

Thus all too frequently the sailor effects his introduction to the Third Submarine Squadron, but his misgivings are usually dispelled when he discovers that we are permanently based at Faslane in the Gareloch, surrounded by the varied beauties of Scotland's mountains and moors, lochs and lassies, all of which abound in this arm of the Clyde, some 21 miles from Glasgow. He will also discover that a commission served as a member of this famous squadron offers to both submariner and general service rating alike a variety of work and play seldom found in other sections of the Fleet, and whatever his qualifications may be, he has a vital part to play in his support of this all-important arm of the Service, an arm which the First Lord of the Admiralty recently referred to as the ultimate weapon of the future.

War History

The Third Squadron was formed at the outbreak of war in 1939 at Harwich, moving the following year to Rosyth at the end of 1941 it merged with the Second Squadron and shifted base to the Holy Loch on the Clyde, where the new squadron remained until the end of the war. During these years, besides having a permanent number of submarines proceeding on war patrols, the squadron was responsible for working up every submarine completing building or refit. This role continues today.

At the end of the German war, plans were made to merge the Seventh Training Squadron at Rothesay with the Third in order to release a depot ship for the Pacific. As it turned out, this ship was not required, but the Third Squadron shifted base to Rothesay in 1946. More recently the disbanding of the Reserve Fleet, together with the better facilities and shore support available at Faslane, have resulted in a final move to the Gareloch in September of last year.

The Base

The squadron, which is a self-contained task unit, is centred around Adamant (Capt. I. L. M. McGeoch, D.S.O., D.S.C., R.N., Captain (Submarines)), a 17,000-ton floating hotel and dockyard. As squadron depot ship, she must provide every conceivable type of weapon, fuel, store and repair facility, accommodation, offices and recreation for the ships and submarines forming the squadron and its 2,000 men. She was built in 1942 and is to be modernised. In addition, to make up for Adamant's one deficiency, there is Admiralty Floating Dock 58, the very latest in floating garages, which has better accommodation than most frigates. A.F.D. 58 was completed in 1957. The Tank Landing Headquarters Ship Ben Nevis, converted into an accommodation ship, is berthed nearby, and provides extra living space, as well as being the operational headquarters when Adamant is at sea. Her tank deck, transformed into a cinema, boasts the widest CinemaScope screen in the Navy.

Spearhead

What is the object of all this? The answer is that the Third Squadron, or "Third Division North," as we are popularly called, is the principal operational squadron of the Submarine Command in the United Kingdom, and as such her submarines must invariably be on top line. Without the submarines the depot ship and support facilities would not exist, and equally without Adamant and her satellites the submarines could not operate. The number of boats in the squadron varies, and there may be any number from 10 to 15 submarines working from Faslane at one time. At the time of writing, Anchorite, Astute, Tiptoe, Truncheon, Taciturn, Explorer, Excalibur, Seraph and Porpoise are natives, while Ambush, Alderney and Acheron are attached for work-up. Providing surface target services and other duties are Blackpool, one of our latest frigates, and Kingfisher, formerly a deep sea salvage rescue vessel.

Operations

The units operate in a far-flung parish and recently we have had at least five boats operating over 2,000 miles from home, while in the deep and sheltered waters of the Clyde the squadron carries on one of its wartime roles of working up newly commissioned boats before releasing them to other squadrons. The permanent units have a variety of tasks mainly confined to evaluating new tactics and equipment, trials of all types and taking part in all major NATO and

national exercises of an advanced nature, all of which are vital to the submarine's primary war role as an anti-submarine weapon.

Explorer and Excalibur, reputedly the fastest submarines in the world, with an underwater speed in excess of 25 knots, are engaged in the detailed analysis of very high underwater speeds, another vital field which must be covered in order to gain experience in the new techniques and drills which will emerge with the advent of our first nuclear boat Dreadnought and her sisters. As a change from this is work they occasionally provide target services for surface anti-submarine forces working from Londonderry.

New Submarines

The first three of our new large ocean-going boats of the Porpoise Class will join the squadron this year. These boats, of 2,300 tons, contain all that has been developed since the war in weapons, equipment and submarine design short of nuclear propulsion. Porpoise herself is at present engaged in First of Class trials. Apart from submarines working up, the only training carried out in the squadron, as opposed to operational work, is confined to qualifying new submarine commanding officers, whose activities are mainly centred round the Clyde areas and the Attack Teacher at Rothesay, the sole remnant of our old organisation

NATO Centre

In addition, we are a certain port of call for all NATO submarines visiting these islands, and hardly a week passes without sighting an American, Dutch, Danish or Norwegian ensign.

Adamant herself leaves Faslane on the average of six times a year. The main cruise each summer is to one or more foreign ports: this summer she is spending a month in Norway and Sweden.

Spartan Playground

On the shore side and in lighter vein, horse-racing would appear to be the only enjoyment which cannot be found locally. Sheltered as we are from many an icy blast, all forms of outdoor sport can be indulged in throughout the year. Soccer, hockey, rugby and cricket flourish in due season while the mountains throw a perpetual challenge to climbers. Shooting is available on the moors and skiing parties depart every weekend for the slopes of Glencoe, while for the less energetic the countryside abounds in streams and lochs for fishermen. Two good golf courses exist at nearby Helensburgh and Cardross, while for the romantically minded Loch Lomond is literally just over the hill. The Gareloch is the scene of intense sailing activity in the summer months, and the squadron is happily equipped with a five-ton sloop and nine R.N.S.A. dinghies in addition to a number of whalers.

A full programme of indoor sports to suit every taste is within easy reach. Helensburgh only five miles away and the fleshpots of Glasgow satisfy most demands in the way of theatre, dancing and drinking, although there is here an ever present reminder of ones whereabouts. Only 20 nips to the bottle, and the pubs shut at 9 p.m. However, the Fleet canteen, opposite the jetty where Adamant lies, keeps more southern hours, and is a welcome and popular last port of call.

The law on Sunday denies alcoholic refreshment to anyone who cannot prove he is a bona-fide wayfarer, but oddly enough the law also recognises that all sailors are automatically travellers wherever they may find themselves! The usual squadron amenities of photographic, drama and boxing clubs thrive and welcome new enthusiasts, while tennis, squash and badminton are available locally.

A branch of the Submarine Old Comrades Association (Scotland) was formed recently in nearby Dumbarton with Lieut. Cdr. C. B. Christie, D.S.C., R.N.R., as secretary.

Real Estate

For the marrieds, the area presents no more problems than most from a schooling point of view, while more and more accommodation is becoming available as the local populace realise that we are here to stay. Full use is made of the Admiralty Hiring Scheme, and already there are 10 officers' and 46 ratings' married quarters of post war construction; a further 10 officers' and 56 ratings' houses are being built this year. It is appreciated that even then the total numbers will be but a drop in the ocean of what is really needed, but we hope that ever-increasing numbers of quarters will be built as the realisation of the importance of our submarine squadron grows and grows. From the night leave aspect there is a shortage of accommodation in Helensburgh, but a hostel is being organised, whereas Glasgow presents no problem with its excellent YMCA Club and Atlantic and Pacific houses.

Although parting from Rothesay has been quite wrench for some, the vast majority of opinion in the squadron votes heavily in favour of our new home with its better facilities for travel, recreation and general freedom of movement.