



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: **CUTTING THE FIRST STEEL FOR THE NEW HMS DREADNOUGHT**

EDITORIAL

Hello Everybody.

November already – the clocks have gone back an hour, Halloween has kept the children happy and we are now into the Remembrance period. Next weekend sees the Submarine Remembrance Parade in London – once again in the grounds of the Temple however no Royal presence this year. After the Service and Wreath Laying the wreaths will be transferred across the road to be displayed at the Embankment Memorial. Dave Barlow will be attending the Ceremonies this year with Dave Smith laying a wreath on behalf of the Branch and one of our newer Branch Members Jeff Bennett will be attending as well.

Talking of new Members we have recently received an Application Form from David Leather who served as a Leading Engineering Technician in three Vanguard Class boats. His Application is currently being processed.

Trafalgar Day this year saw the announcement of the name of the first of the Successor Submarines – which will be named DREADNOUGHT. I have included an article about this and some of the new Yard developments in this newsletter. The cover picture shows the Defence Secretary observing the cutting of the first steel for DREADNOUGHT. Trafalgar Day also saw the Sea Cadets Trafalgar Ball at Fairfields. The event was well attended and, as usual was the opportunity to raise funds for the Cadet Corps. I only found out when I sat down and read the menu card that I was giving the second grace after the meal. A bit of a surprise for me but all went well. The Toast of the Immortal Memory was given by a Captain this year but first he took the opportunity to make sure everyone

knew about the ‘go ahead’ for the Successor Submarines and the DREADNOUGHT name.

In his ‘Chairman’s Dit’ Dave Barlow reminds us all about Barrow Remembrance Day Parade arrangements for Sunday 13th November. Hopefully you will all support the Parades and the post Parade gathering at the RBL. As usual I will be putting Poppy Crosses on a number of Naval and Submariners Graves at Thorncliffe in the next few days. There will be one additional Cross this year. You may recall that a few years ago we marked the grave of a Stoker from the Submarine Support Ship HMS HAZARD (John Henry Curtis) who was accidentally drowned in Devonshire Dock in 1902. Recently the name of another Stoker - Walter George Stone - was identified and Peter Schofield has found newspaper cuttings showing that he too was drowned in Devonshire Dock in December 1906 and has been in an unmarked grave ever since. He had slipped off the gangplank to HMS HAZARD on a frosty evening – the gangplank in question was 22 inches wide but had no guard rail. Being a Stoker in HMS HAZARD in Barrow seems to have been a dangerous occupation.

No news yet about arrangements for the Christmas Lights ‘Switch On’. This will be under new management this year and full details are awaited.

Don’t forget the Branch meeting will be at 1930 start time again on Tuesday 1st November – I hope to see you all there – don’t be late!!

Regards

Barrie Downer

CHAIRMAN'S DIT

Hello again.

October has been a quiet month. There was one social which was a race night which apparently was poorly attended with just the usual stalwarts turning up. It is very frustrating for Alex to continually arrange functions for you and then have a poor attendance. Unless he knows what you want, it make it very difficult for him. Please, if there is anything you want on the social front then please let Alex know.

The next big function is the Ladies Night where we can all get dressed up in our DJs and our wives and partners in their best finery and have a really good time. It is also our way of thanking our ladies for putting up with us when we are out with the lads or whatever. I know the cost has increased but unfortunately that is a fact of life I'm afraid. I have paid more for less at other functions I have recently attended.

I would like to see at good attendance for the Remembrance Day Parade too. As usual we have a very short wreath laying service at the AE1 & 2 Memorial at 10.00 and then either walk along to the Town Hall or

make your own way up to the Cenotaph. We march off at 10.30 if you wish to go straight to the Town Hall. On completion of the Parade we retire to the British Legion and will have our own Submarine Memorial which I always find to be rather emotional.

Mick has been advised by the K2B committee that we have been successful in receiving a donation but until the awards night we won't know how much it will be. Whatever it is, it means that we can continue to ensure that the branch can fulfil its charitable obligations.

On that point is there anyone out there willing to assist in preparing and distributing the Branch Widows Christmas Hampers and our own Elderly Members Bottle of Cheer? If so, then please let me know.

My thanks go to Barrie, our Vice Chair, for taking the October meeting as I was on holiday but reading through the minutes it seems it was fairly low key.

That's all for now, see you in November.

Regards

Dave

SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

Hi Shipmates

October saw the race night, the one and only fund raising event I hold during the social calendar and it was attended by 8 members; whom I am truly grateful to and hope you had as good an evening as I did

Following on from that I would like to take this opportunity to inform the membership that in order to subsidise socials, fund the birthday boy beer and continue to run the members draw I do need your support at these events. Generally, I cost events at the lowest price and hope that the turnout will be such that I don't make a loss but on this occasion I only managed to break even through the generosity of sponsors and selling practically all the owners and jockeys for the evening to my family in London. PLEASE PLEASE support the social calendar if you can.

Diary Check

Our **Annual Dinner Dance** will take place at the Fairways Hotel on **Friday 11th November** at 19:00 for a 19:30 kick off. The dance falls on the 11th of the 11th and therefore I have decided to theme it around the war and remembrance, which doesn't mean it will be all doom and gloom - you will be stepping back in time to a more traditional menu, music from a bygone era and surroundings to remind us of that time.

The evening includes a reception drink, a waitress served three course meal; including tea and coffee, a half bottle of wine per person (red or white), a glass of port for the toasts. The entertainment is top class act Becki Fishwick who will take you back in time to the golden days of Very Lynn and the Beverley Sisters, then she will bring us more modern with her great vocal talent and then we will end the evening with a good old fashioned disco; playing all the songs you love to sing and dance to.

At only £40 per person this is very good value for money and will be a top evening of fun and laughter and being spoilt.

Dress code is Black tie/dark lounge suit with miniatures, for the ladies it's ball gown, cocktail dress or trouser suit. If you want to come in theme then remember to put a bow tie on your demob suit.

I will need to finalise the numbers and food order just after the November meeting so please come along bring your family and friends and enjoy what will be a great evening.

Saturday 17th December we round another year off with the Christmas parties (both kiddies and adults on the same day – but not at the same time). The children's party (12-3) is limited to 50 and the list is now closed.

The adult party (7:30 – late) will be great entertainment from Denis Horan, bring a plate and the £100 ticket giveaway – at £5 a ticket it is not to be missed, tickets are on sale.

Members draw was won in October by Alan Pillifent so stands at £5 for November and don't forget to get your birthday boy beer at the meeting which starts at the new time of 7:30pm.

I am attending the annual conference in March and am contemplating travelling by coach or hiring a self-drive and stopping off at the Arboretum prior to going to Leicester on the Friday. If anyone is interested in having a hassle free, chauffeur driven trip to and from the conference which will include the chance to visit the Arboretum then please get in touch. I need at least 12 to make this happen and the cost per person will be dependent on the numbers but should be no more than £20 per person for the travel.

Finally, I am working on the 2017 Social Programme so if you have any suggestions then send them my way and I see if I can get something sorted.

Let's finish off the year with a fantastic, well attended, dinner dance and the Christmas parties – thanks for your continued support. Alex Webb, Social Secretary

NOVEMBER BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting	Tuesday 4 th Nov
Ladies Night Dinner Dance	Friday 11 th Nov
Embankment Parade	Sunday 6 th Nov
Remembrance Parade	Sunday 13 th Nov
Committee Meeting	As Required

DECEMBER BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting	Tuesday 6 th Dec
Children's Christmas Party	Saturday 17 th Dec
Members Christmas Party	Saturday 17 th Dec
Committee Meeting	As Required

JANUARY BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting	Tues 6 th December
Committee Meeting	As Required

NOVEMBER BRANCH BIRTHDAYS

J.E. (John) Smith	08/11/1943
P. (Pete) Schofield	09/11/1946
G J (Gavin) Clelland	10/11/1963
T. (Tim) Fry	11/11/1966
A.R. (Vernon) Miles	17/11/1953
R, (Bob) Pointer	18/11/1948
I.A. (Ian) Clark	18/11/1945
M. (John) Davenport	22/11/1942
M.S. (Mike) Lacey	22/11/1946
N. (Neil) Lambert	27/11/1957
T.J. (Trevor) Janes	29/11/1948
J. (Jeffrey) Thomas	30/11/1943

Happy Birthday to you all!

SUBMARINE LOSSES OF WWI

One Submarine were lost with all hands in November 1916 and two other Ratings are reported to have died.

Submarine E30 is presumed to have been lost in a previously unknown minefield off of Orford Ness on 22nd November 1916. All of the crew were lost: They were:

Officers:

Lt Cdr Geoffrey Nepean Biggs, Commanding Officer
Lt John Ralph Bax Farwell, First Lieutenant
Lt Harold Stephen Meats, RNR, Navigator

Ratings:

PO William Henry Bucks O/N 185640
PO William George Coombes O/N J115
PO Alfred Robert Fleming O/N 180617
L/Sea Henry Hurlock, DSM O/N 238126
L/Sea John William Presswell O/N J15591
AB Ernest William Bowley O/N 239811
AB Alfred Henry Hand O/N J16364
AB Joseph Golden Langridge O/N 236704

AB Charles Henry Reeves O/N J2360
AB Arthur Ridgers O/N J8085
AB Frederick Charles Hedge Volze O/N J9710
L/Sig William Charles Leonard Potter O/N J11821
Tel John Richard Jones O/N J21786
CERA James May O/N 270428
ERA1 James Henderson O/N 270348
ERA3 William Richard Travers O/N M3709
ERA4 Albert Charles Roberts O/N M6356
Sto PO Thomas Alfred Hayward O/N 292724
L/Sto Harry James Bentley O/N 298302
L/Sto Thomas William Wellfare O/N 305430
Sto Sidney Crocker O/N K22305
Sto Bertie Hedge O/N K10839
Sto John Johnston O/N K18697
Sto John William Morris O/N K18651
Sto Thomas Forster Rennison O/N K17937
Sto Alfred William Snowden O/N K19920
Sto Harvey Stevens O/N K7564

The other two casualties were:

1. An Able Seaman from the Submarine Depot HMS DOLPHIN who died on Wednesday 29th November 1916. Having been taken ill he died in the Royal Naval Hospital at Haslar: He was:

AB James Sinclair O/N J16889

James Sinclair was born in Edinburgh on 12th February 1895 and he was the twenty one year old son of John and Rose Ann Sinclair of 3, Leslie Place, Edinburgh. He is buried in the Haslar Naval Cemetery in Grave No. E.26.

2. One member of the crew of Submarine E15 who died on Wednesday 29th November 1916 whilst a Prisoner of War in Turkey. He was:

SPO Ernest Henry Mitchell O/N 288459

Ernest Mitchell was born at Wells in Somerset on 11th August 1877. Submarine E15 was sent to the Mediterranean to support the Dardanelles Campaign in 1915 but ran aground at Kephez whilst attempting the passage through the Dardanelles into the Sea of Marmora on 17th Apr 1915. The Submarine was then shelled by the Turkish Forts in the area. Several of the crew were killed and the remainder were taken Prisoner of War by the Turks. He is buried in the Baghdad North Gate Cemetery in Row 21, Plot N, Grave No 6.

DISCLAIMER

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FIRST TRIDENT SUCCESSOR SUBMARINE GIVEN FAMOUS NAVAL NAME

21st October 2016

The first of the four new Submarines to carry Trident nuclear missiles will be named DREADNOUGHT, a decision inspired by famous ships from the past. The Ministry of Defence revealed the name, to coincide with Trafalgar Day, for the first vessel of the £31bn project to replace existing submarines.

Nine Navy vessels have previously been named DREADNOUGHT. Perhaps the most famous was the Battle Ship HMS DREADNOUGHT which was commissioned at Portsmouth in 1906 and which transformed naval warfare. The name became used at the time to describe a new era of warship design and this HMS DREADNOUGHT changed the face of naval warfare at the start of the 20th Century

Other DREADNOUGHTs included one that sailed with Sir Francis Drake to battle with the Spanish Armada in 1588 and another that was present with Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

Britain's first nuclear-powered submarine, launched 56 years ago on Trafalgar Day in 1960, also shared the name.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said: "Every day our ballistic missile submarines are used to deter the most extreme threats to Britain's security.

"We cannot know what dangers we might face in the 2030s, 2040s and 2050s, so we are building the new DREADNOUGHT Class.

"Along with increasing the defence budget to buy new ships, more planes, and armoured vehicles, this commitment shows we will never gamble with our security."

DRREADNOUGHT will be the 'Lead' boat of the four new submarines, as well as the class name for the whole fleet.

The MoD, which received approval for the name from the Queen, said the next three boats would also be given names with "historical resonance".

TRIDENT SUCCESSOR PROGRAMME Steel Cutting

BAE Systems in Barrow in Furness has begun initial manufacturing work for the Royal Navy's first Successor submarine following a new Government investment in the project. The investment of more than £1.3 billion, allows the start of structural steel work for the submarine's auxiliary machine space, continued design of the submarine, purchasing materials and long lead items,

and investment in facilities at a company shipyard. A steel-cutting ceremony to mark the start of construction, was held on Wednesday 5th October 2016 and was attended by Defence Secretary Michael Fallon

THE RESOLUTION BUILDING Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony for the BAE Systems 'Off-Site Logistics Facility' – the RESOLUTION Building - has taken place and was performed by Rear Admiral Simon Lister and attended by BAE Management and personnel and local Dignitaries. The 29,000 square metre building is the first of the new Facilities supporting the Trident Successor programme to be completed.

This RESOLUTION Building replaces a number of existing logistics buildings including the Central Distribution Warehouse (CDW) and the ASTUTE Store in a single 'State of the Art' Facility which was completed four days earlier than the target date. Children from local schools and Barrow Island residents were invited to tour the RESOLUTION Building on Friday 7th October - the latter were invited as a 'thank you' for their patience and consideration during the nearly two year-long construction process. Further tours of the Building for BAE employees and families took place over the weekend 8th/9th October.

OTHER BARROW YARD DEVELOPMENTS

The North West Gate (opposite the Dock Museum has been permanently closed and the Gate House and Access Gates are in the process of demolition. This will clear the way for the planned Devonshire Dock Hall Extension. Access is now via a new Gate off Jute Road. Steelwork for the new Assembly Hall (Son of DDH) is almost complete, roofing is well advanced and cladding of the sides of the building is in progress.

Ground works on the site of the now demolished Shipwrights Shop are now in hand with ground remediation works progressing.

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 June for the July 2016 issue. Please ensure you have any information with me by the 15th of the month to ensure its inclusion in the next issue. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition – keep them stories coming!

THE SUBMARINE MEMORIAL AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM



The Memorial



Gordon takes a close look!

SCRAPPING NUCLEAR SUBMARINES

Navy's old nuclear submarines 'will not be finally disposed of until after 2040'



HMS DREADNOUGHT, the Navy's first nuclear powered submarine, is still waiting to be dismantled, 36 years after it retired. Credit: John Smart/Press Association

[Ben Farmer](#), Defence Correspondent



18 October 2016

A lack of money, expertise and disposal sites mean derelict British nuclear submarines containing radioactive material will not be fully dismantled and disposed of for 25 years, officials have admitted.

The Royal Navy has nineteen old nuclear-powered submarines stored in ports waiting to be dismantled, with another eight due to retire and join them in the coming years.

HMS DREADNOUGHT, the Navy's first nuclear-powered submarine, has been waiting to be dismantled since it retired 36 years ago.

We have a dearth of nuclear engineers, and to a certain extent civil engineers, right across the country aid Stephen Lovegrove, permanent secretary at the MoD Ministry of Defence officials told MPs that radioactive parts on board could not be finally disposed of until an underground dump for all of the UK's nuclear waste has been chosen and built. That site is not due to be ready until 2040.

The submarines are currently stored at Devonport, near Plymouth, and at Rosyth, on the Firth of Forth.

Stephen Lovegrove, permanent secretary at the MoD, told the Commons defence committee that a lack of money and skills meant it was impossible to speed up the process.

A FLUKE OF NAVIGATION!

The passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia.

The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought the master, Captain John Phillips, the result. The ships position was LAT 0 S 31' N and LON 179 S 30' W. The date was 30 December 1899

"Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, we are only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line.

Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime.

He called his navigators to the bridge to check and double check the ships position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark.

Then he adjusted the engine speed. The calm weather and clear night worked in his favour.

At midnight the SS WARRIMOO lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line!

The consequences of this bizarre position were many. The forward part (bow) of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere and the middle of summer. The rear (stern) was in the Northern Hemisphere and in the middle of

winter. The date in the aft part of the ship was 31 December 1899. Forward it was 1 January 1900.

This ship was therefore not only in two different days, two different months, two different years, and two different seasons, but in two different centuries all at the same time!

X-CRAFT ON THE MOVE



During WWII X-Craft were transported by train from Barrow to Scotland. One story says that a train carrying X-Craft broke down on the way, the crew decamped to a nearby Scottish pub in uniform where their story of being stranded submariners was disbelieved – not surprisingly! On arrival the X-Craft were lifted into the water at the Military Port at Faslane (later the Metal Industries Shipbreakers) and now the Faslane Naval Base.

The move – this time from the Imperial War Museum at Duxford to Helensburgh was by road where the X-Craft will form the centre piece of the new Heritage Centre in Helensburgh

QUIZ QUESTION

We haven't had any Quiz Questions for some time!

The picture on Page 8 has been provided by one of our Canadian colleagues and his questions are:

1. Who are these six Submariners?
2. Where was the photo taken?
3. Which Submarine is it?
4. Who was the Commanding Officer?
5. When was the photograph taken?
6. Who took the Photograph?

Send your answers to the Editor please! I will publish the correct answers in the December Issue.



CROSSED THE BAR OCTOBER 2016

Branch	Date	Name	Rank/Rating	O/N	Age	Submarine Service
West of Scotland Branch (Founder Member)	9th September 2016	R (Ron) Hutcheson	Able Seaman (UW3)	P/JX 371980	89	Submarine Service from January 1946 to October 1954 in TELEMACHUS, ACHERON, THERMOPYLAE, ANCHORITE, TUDOR, THOROUGH & TOTEM
Southampton Branch	6th October 2016	William (Bill) Omer Laurie	Chief Telegraphist	TBA	96	Submarine Service from May 1941 to August 1955 in OBERON, TAKU, TRIDENT, TRUMP & TACTICIAN
West of Scotland Branch (Founder Member)	12th October 2016	David (Dave) Elliot	Chief Marine Engineering Mechanic	TBA	72	Submarine Service from 1965 to 1984 in DOLPHIN, ANDREW, WARSPITE, RENOWN & NEPTUNE
Eastern States Branch (lapsed)	October 2016	David J Smith	Able Seaman (Underwater Weapons 3)	P/J928154	78	Submarine Service from September 1957 to March 1965 in ANCHORITE, ANDREW, SEALION (on 'Commissioning' at Birkenhead' on 21st July 1961 & TABARD
South Kent Submariners	18th October 2016	Orlando William Henry (Chic) Kinge	Able Seaman (RP3)	C/JX 641262	91	Submarine Service from April 1944 to December 1945 in P614, TRUSTY, UPSHOT & VITALITY
Welsh Branch	20th October 2016	Richard John Noel Turner	Able Seaman (ST)	D/JX 420775	91	Submarine Service from September 1943 to March 1946 in OBERON, TAKU & SAGA

K26 – THE STEAM SUBMARINE (Part 14)

(By O/N J98553)

A NICE WARM NIGHT IN MALTA

The time that a Sailor gets ashore is not long, on most days his work finishes at four p.m. He has to shift, clean up, and get a boat, and of course he has to be of the watch ashore in order to be able to go ashore. When ashore he needs a meal mostly, because meals at the time I am speaking of were generally poor aboard and fairly good ashore. Maltese restaurants of the very smallest type could cook eggs and chips and chops for a Sailor, garnish it with lettuce, tomato, radishes, things that rarely appeared aboard, and there was the inevitable beer. Chicken could be had, even pork, but then you had to be a well-paid warrior to be able to afford them. As a teetotaler, I would not go ashore often, my social life was small, very small. I ran into Sandra soon after she came out to Malta to be Governess to a four-ringed Captain's two children, a girl and a boy. She had occasional evenings off, she posted a letter to me, when she could see me, put a farthing stamp on it and I got it in a couple of hours. Scotty would put the letter in my hand. He'd say "Here you are Nick all hot and passionate postmarked about two and a half hours ago." I had to be furtive, Sandra was very conscious of her teaching diploma or whatever it was. She thought also that the Captain would not care to see one of his household in company with a "jolly Mucko", as my friends would have described me, with more accent on the "Mucko" than the "Jolly". She was a nice looking girl, we went to talkies, Bonnici's Ice Cream parlour. She kept a smart look out for anybody who might recognise her. I joined her three streets away from her employer's house. I never saw the 'brats' as she called them. Three months exposed to the early talkies and we were engaged, she had my ring and she felt on firm enough ground to try to correct my accent, my grammar, my deportment, me. I listened, didn't worry a great deal. I felt that an Oxford accent would be forced, not natural, and would leave me at times of crisis. We had jokes about men getting promoted in the Navy; one went, supposed - a West Country newly promoted Boatswain saying, "Thet mehn over thar, get a holt a that there chuar and bring 'un over 'yer'. I felt I could fend off my cockney accent for about three sentences and then it would reappear. So I never even tried.

One warm evening after nothing more exciting than a film at the Manoel Theatre and a glass of orange crush I walked her back in the direction of her employer's house. Changing sides as we crossed a road I passed my arm around her touching and lifting what many a rougher sailor than me would have called her starboard tit. I would have said, in my defence, that accidentally, and I mean it, I had knocked my hand on her right breast. Before I could say, "Sorry Sandra" she had started an icy description of me, my morals, expectations, grammar, syntax, accent, ideas of gentility etc., and my rough and lascivious treatment of part of her body. This, in the street with people presumed to know a good deal of English. I was flabbergasted. I was then asked what I had to say. I said just "Nothing Sandra". A few seconds later I had my ring back and was on my way back to Molo Pietà. If this was courtship, I seemed to prefer warship. No more farthing letters, the end. Wise old Scotty - married two nippers - said, "No hot passion post for our Nick, never mind mate, it's like the bus service with women, there'll be another one along soon 'old tight behind." I didn't want another one, what I wanted was Sandra. But she didn't write.

There's grape vines everywhere, tendrils go up and over a wall and round a trellis, and you hear about people you know though perhaps you don't run into them. I heard of Sandra. Two months later she married an English schoolmaster, a B.A. of some English University. I never saw him. I thought that his accent would probably pass muster. Much later I heard he had fathered a son and had died - assisted not a little by his pastime of drinking heavily. This puzzled me. I could have imagined Sandra working at taking him off the bottle. His name, a gossip gave me, as the very unusual one of Hodstrip. So I knew that Sandra Hodstrip was a widow. I knew she had gone back to England. Very many years passed. Then one day I was in 'The Goat' out at Southsea. I was still practically a teetotaler. I had been to meet a chap there and he had left for the station on his way to London and I was finishing off a soft drink, over which I lingered. I had long left the R.N. but I knew the sort of public 'The Goat' catered for - Junior Lieutenants, Sub Lieutenants and Upper Yardmen. Upper Yardmen were lower deck ratings on course who, when they had completed and 'passed out', would become metamorphosed into Sub Lieutenants.

There were two, one with foaming beer, one with an orange squash. Both young Petty Officers, obvious Upper-Yardmen. The beer gone the drinker said "Cheerio Hodstrip, see you aboard" and walked out. The man addressed said "Yes, I'll see you after tea." He put his glass down. He was a smart young fellow I looked at him intently. It takes an effort for me to talk to strangers. I said, "Excuse me young man. I heard the other Petty Officer call you by name, it was Hodstrip, I thought". "It was" he admitted. I went on I must know, "It's a very unusual name Hodstrip. I don't want to be nosy but was your father a B.A.?" He smiled. "Yes Mother says so, so dad was a B.A. for sure." I smiled at him. I asked, "Mother Sandra Hodstrip?" "Right". "I believe I knew your mother years ago, but not your father, when your mother was governess to some Captain's children." My name is Carter, always called Nick, we were very good friends your mother and I." He drank his fizzy drink and laughed heartily. "I'm very glad to meet you. My mother has actually told me about you, in fact you were the horrible example she held up before me when I decided to join the Andrew. Mother exaggerates you know and I was her only 'che-ild', she sort of suggested that you tried to subject her to the fate worse than death within minutes of meeting." I actually blushed. I said, "Don't go, have a drink, all a misunderstanding - er er." He shook hands, "My name is David and as I said mother exaggerates - what did you do slap her on the behind?" I replied "No" I actually blundered against her what-you-call-it bra. "Then there's the fact that you had a way of speaking mummy didn't like." I said, "Yes, my natural cockney accent failed to charm your mother, and one evening she gave me a

better than astrologer's reading and I was out with a duck". He wagged a finger. "Nick, you in your youth could not have had the right approach to women: now take me for instance I have a flair which I don't really need," "How's that you're not married are you?" "No Nick, I'm not married, unknown to my dear mummy, I am engaged to a marvellous girl and as soon as I get promoted to Sub I'm going to marry her". "She's beautiful and she's good, and the impact on my mother is going to be horrific." I asked, "Why?" "Well you have heard mummy on accents, and no doubt on, "Who knows who" and "Whom do we meet." Well listen to this. My girl Cleo works at Marks and Sparks, she is blonde, shapely, delicious, her accent is Portsea with a slight flavour of Copnor. She is to marry a fortnight after I am promoted." "She said to me one evening, "David Hodstrip, I am going to marry you in Church with half the Prayer Book read over us, you in your uniform and half of Marks and Sparks girls crying and packing the pews. I'm walking through an arch of brand new bleeding swords held up by your class mates and you will take my virginity that night, and not a bloody moment sooner." and she blushed as she said it." "That girl is going to teach my mother plenty, and I suppose mother will teach her too." I said "I can imagine that." I laughed, "David you can look upon me as an Uncle: I'd like to send you a modest present and offer the hope that you will be very happy." He gave me an address at North End. "Miss Cleo Rufino was the name that preceded it. "Would you like to come to the wedding? I pondered. "No David I'd better not, weddings always get me sentimental. I don't want to cry on the shoulders of any beautiful young bridesmaids - not at my advanced age." "You'd meet an old friend in mummy." I nodded vigorously, "Tell the truth David I'm afraid she might start again where she left off on a nice warm night in Malta many years ago. You know I still say 'trine' and 'ingine'."

To be continued in December 2016

DIVE, DIVE, DIVE, BARROW BUILT SUBMARINES - THE BEST

!!!!ONLY SIX COPIES LEFT!!!!

The Submarine Heritage Centre (SHC) and the Submariners Association (SA) of Barrow in Furness commissioned a series of Paintings, by the noted Barrow-in-Furness based Marine Artist – Tom Murphy - of all Classes of Submarine built in the Barrow Shipyard over the last 120 years. The Barrow Shipyard has been involved with the design and built over 72% of all UK Submarines plus many Submarines for overseas Navies. This Paintings Series represents the development of the Submarine over that period and reflects how the Submarine evolved from the first basic vessel in the 1880's to the sophisticated Nuclear powered Submarine of the 21st Century.



This Book showcases the Paintings with supporting data on plates covering the forty four Classes of Submarine built in Barrow together with a number of Submarines built for other countries. It also includes twelve 'Decade' paintings reflecting the products, other than the Submarine, produced by the Barrow Shipyard over that same period and a further ten plates of 'Miscellaneous' paintings of Ships, Submarines and topics related to Barrow in Furness and the Barrow Shipyard. The Book is a "Coffee Table" hard back product with the Painting

Plates on the RH pages with associated information on the LH pages.

The last six copies of the Book are still available, now at £15.00 per copy plus £5.00 P & P (UK rate only - Overseas postage rates on application). Cheques should be made out to 'SA Barrow'. In addition 'Limited Edition' prints are available of all the paintings in the Big Book at £45.00 each plus £3.95 P & P (UK).

To obtain your own copy of 'Dive, Dive, Dive – Barrow Built Submarines - the Best' and/or a 'Limited Edition' print contact Barrie Downer at barrie@downer55.freemove.co.uk

REQUEST FOR HELP SUBMARINE COMMISSIONING CREW LISTS

Some time ago I asked for your help with copies of Submarine Commissioning Crew Lists to assist with an ongoing Project. The response has been very good but I am still looking for First Commission Lists as follows:

Diesel Boats: ONYX, ORPHEUS, ORACLE, OTTER, ODIN, OTUS, OPOSSUM, OPPORTUNE, UNSEEN & UNICORN

Nuclear Boats: CHURCHILL, COURAGEOUS, REVENGE, TRENCHANT, VIGILANT, ASTUTE & AMBUSH

Additionally I would appreciate copies of any Crew Lists for subsequent Commissions of these Boats and for any Commission of any Diesel 'A', 'S' or 'T' Class Boat. Have a look through your records and 'Ditty Boxes' and see what you can find.

You can contact me by E Mail, Snail Mail or Telephone as per details on Page 2. Thanks, Barrie Downer



Barrow Submariners Association Annual Dinner Dance

Friday 11th November 2016

Fairways Hotel
At 1900 for 1930 Hrs

Remembrance Day Themed

3 Course Meal (inc Coffee)

(Reception Drink, 1/2 Bottle Wine & Port Toast)

Live Music - Becki Fishwick

Disco

£40 per person

Dress Code: Dinner /Dark Lounge Suit & Bow Tie for Men
Cocktail Dress/Ball Gown or Trouser Suit for Ladies

Tickets from Alex Webb 01229 839551



Barrow Submariners Association

Annual Christmas Party

Saturday 17th Dec 2016

Royal British Legion (7:30pm 'til Late)

Cost £5 per person

(Ticket Only Entry)

Live Music – Denis Horan

Disco

(Food is 'Bring a Plate')

Special Christmas Raffle

£100 Ticket Draw

Tickets on sale from:

Alex Webb (839551)

(or Behind the Bar)

Adults Only

