



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: Barrow Branch & Tri Service Members attend the 2019 Year 3 & 4 Remembrance Service at St Pius RC School

'Nothing in the world, nothing that you may think or dream of, or anyone may tell you, no arguments however specious, no appeals however seductive, must lead you to abandon that naval supremacy on which the life of our country depends.'

WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL

EDITORIAL



A Group Photo after the November Branch Meeting with HMS AUDACIOUS Crew Members and the six recipients of their Submarine Dolphins

Hello Everybody,

Well, November was a bit of a busy month for the Branch and our Members. It started with the Embankment Parade in London on Sunday, 3rd November, which was attended by Dave Smith, Jeff

Bennett, Mark Butchart and Piya Das – a wreath was laid on National Submariners Memorial behalf of the Branch. The November Branch Meeting on Tuesday 5th was one of the best attended this year and we were joined by Crew Members from HMS AUDACIOUS including their Commanding Officer Commander Bull.

After the Meeting Commander Bull conducted an Awards Ceremony in which six newly qualified Crew Members were presented with their Submarine Dolphins and Certificates see photo below!. Mike Vallance from BAE was along to take photos. We even managed to get an article in the December Issue of Navy News about the Ceremony!



Commander Bull conducted the Dolphins Awards Ceremony

This year Peter Schofield and myself placed Poppy Crosses on several Graves at Rampside and Thorncliffe including those of Commander Cumming, CERA Jenner, Leading Stoker Curtis, Midshipman Robertson, Leading Stoker Stone and, for the first time this year, the Graves of James Young and Thomas Ankers – two Barrow Shipyard workers lost in HMS THETIS in 1939. Next year, when it has been located, the Grave of Horace Cragg – the third Shipyard worker lost in THETIS will also be included.

On Friday 8th December BAE arranged a Memorial Service at the Dock Museum to commemorate the two Vickers workers who were killed when the Hammerhead Crane was hit during the Barrow Blitz in WWII. I attended on behalf of the Branch as did Les Hambling and Sally Hambling. Friday 8th also saw our Branch Dinner Dance at the Imperial where our Guests of Honour were John & Margaret Hart in recognition of John's many years of service to the Branch.

Saturday 9th December saw several Branch Members attending the Service of Remembrance at Barrow Railway Station.

Sunday 10th December saw our Remembrance Ceremony at the AE1 and AE2 Memorial in Ramsden Square which was followed by many Members participating in the Barrow Remembrance Sunday Parade with more Members and friends joining in the Service at the Cenotaph. The Social afternoon at the Legion included our Submariners Remembrance Ceremony with George Luck's Poem being read and which, once again, was heard in respectful and reflective silence by all in the Concert Room. Several Branch Members also attended the Ulverston Remembrance Parade on Sunday afternoon.

Once again, this year, Branch Members and RAFA and DOLRA Members were invited to St Pius RC School to the Remembrance Service – this year arranged by the

Year 3 & 4 pupils. A photo from the School Service is our front-page picture this month.

The photo below was taken at the Dundee Street HQ of the Barrow Sea Cadets where the Chairman and I were able to present Lieutenant Jason Zaccarini with a cheque very kindly donated by Sylvia Bowen in remembrance of her husband – our late Branch Member Frank Bowen.



Presentation of Sylvia Bowen's Cheque to the Sea Cadets

A coach load of Members, Family and Friends went on the Manchester Christmas Market outing on Saturday 23rd November and, from what I hear, it was a very successful outing and enjoyed by all. Several of the usual suspects weren't on the Manchester outing as, on the same weekend, Dickie Cambridge, Bob Hagen and Dave Craven were at the Bed & Herts 'Turkey & Tinsel' Weekend in Bournemouth and Margaret & myself were also in Bournemouth for the HMS RELENTLESS Reunion but in a different hotel.

The Chairman and I will be making another visit to the Sea Cadets at Dundee Street on 17th December as we have been invited to the Sea Cadets Annual Awards Evening to present the Barrow Submariners Trophy.

We are now in the run up to Christmas again – it seems to come around faster every year! So, coming up shortly will be the Ladies Christmas Lunch, the Children's Christmas Party and then, the Adult's Christmas Party – all arranged on your behalf by Alex Webb so please support him in all his efforts on your behalf.

Finally, can I thank the Branch Committee Members for all they have done for the Branch in the past year and, also, all Branch Members, family and friends for their support of the Branch – without your help and support the Barrow Branch would not be as successful as it is!

Don't forget the December Branch Meeting on Tuesday 3rd December – usual time and usual place – see you all there!

And, finally, can I wish a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year for 2020 to all our Members, Family and Friends.

Best Regards,

Barrie

SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

Hi Shipmates

November saw us have our dinner dance where around 80 of us were looked after by the Imperial hotel and entertained by Beth Horan. Also, some of us took a trip to Manchester for the Christmas market; I would like to thank all who supported these and other events throughout the year.

Diary Check:

Friday 13th December is our Ladies Christmas lunch at the King Alfred – I will be asking for help to ferry these lovely ladies to and from the venue.

Saturday 14th December is the children's Christmas Party (under 14s only) same routine as before disco, little snacks, Father Christmas and a disco.

Saturday 21st December is the Christmas party proper, £5 per ticket, bring a plate, Denis Horan is the live entertainment, £100 giveaway and limited to 100 – best party ever don't miss out on your tickets this year – very few tickets left.

Also, to thank those who have and do support the social programme, I want to give the opportunity of getting a festive beer/half on behalf of the social fund. Be at the King Alfred after 1400 and before I get drunk and go home on **Saturday 28th December**.

Other items:

The Members draw was won in November so stands at £5 for December.

Don't forget to get your free beer if you were born in December, and next meeting's food is curry and mince pies.

I have produced the social programme for next year and it is now available.

Finally, if I don't see you at the socials or meeting, then I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Alex

DECEMBER BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting	Tues 3 rd Dec
Ladies Christmas Lunch	Fri 13 th Dec
Children's Xmas Party	Sat 14 th Dec
Adult's Xmas Party	Sat 21 st Dec
Committee Meeting	As Required

JANUARY BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting	Tues 7 th Jan
K13	W/E 24-26 th
Committee Meeting	As Required

FEBRUARY BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting	Tues 4 th Feb
Committee Meeting	As Required

Tim Coop	2008
Keith Myers	2011
Sir Tim Kimber	2012
Tom Kennedy-Wilson	2012
Jan Mead	2014
Brian Wilkie	2014
Ginge Cundell	2015
Carl Moody	2016
David Birkhead	2016
John Houlding	2018

RESURGAM

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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 The Firs, Dundalk Street, Barrow Island, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA14 2RZ You may also send your contribution by e-mail to me on frozensnorth55@gmail.com. Come on – every Submariner has a story to tell – some more than one! Let's see yours in print!

DECEMBER BRANCH BIRTHDAYS

L.W. (Lindsey) Thwaites	02/12/1965
P.G. (Paul) Douglas	03/12/1965
G.S. (Stan) Livingstone	06/12/1947
I. (Ian) MacIntyre	11/12/1964
P. (Phillip) Webb	11/12/1950
M. (Mick) Bown	15/12/1945
M.J. (Mike) Dack	17/12/1936
A. (Andrew) Waller	17/12/1972
N. (Nigel) Hutchinson	26/12/1975
D. (Dave) Cattroll	28/12/1957
S. (Stephen) Doughty	28/12/1964
T.D. (Terence) Pyne	31/12/1934

Happy Birthday All!

REMEMBERING FORMER BRANCH

MEMBERS 'CROSSED THE BAR' - DECEMBER

George Cubiss	1966
Harold McMillan	1972
Laurence Pattison	1967
Norman Tubb	2003
Mick Hulbert	2006

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 2020 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!

SUBMARINE COMMISSIONING CREW LISTS

Still looking for 'First Commission' Submarine Crew Lists/Brochures as follows: Diesel Boats: PORPOISE, GRAMPUS, NARWHAL, CACHALOT, WALRUS, OBERON, ONYX, ORPHEUS, ODIN, OTUS & UNICORN.

Also, any Crew Lists for any Re-Commissioning and Re-Dedications of any Conventional 'A', 'S', 'T', 'O' & 'P' Class and any refitting Nuclear Boat - SSN or SSBN. 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 – see Page 2. Thanks, Barrie

SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION DIARIES 2020

The Submariners Association Diaries for 2020 are now available from Slops. Malcolm Hogg still has copies and they will be available at the next Branch Meeting at £3.00 each to cover costs and make a small profit for the Branch.

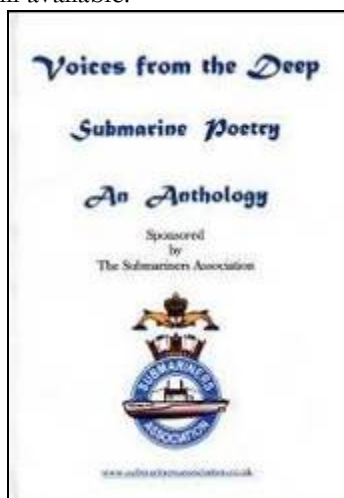
First come – First Served!

Contact the Malcolm as soon as possible if you want to reserve your copy

VOICES FROM THE DEEP

A while ago the Submariners Association sponsored a book - 'Voices from The Deep - Submarine Poetry - An Anthology' (see front cover below) as a way of raising funds for the Association.

Copies are still available!



Orders for the Books (16 copies still available) should be sent to:

Barrie Downer, The Firs, Dundalk Street, Barrow Island, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA14 2RZ

Cheques (£5.00 per copy) should be made payable to the Submariners Association and enclosed with each application

SUBMARINE LOSSES OF WWII

No Submarines were lost in November 1939 and no Submariner Casualties were reported.

Western Defences across the Atlantic, 'causing particular alarm to NATO Military Analysts'

Published: 13th November 2019

Russian nuclear fast attack submarines have twice staged underwater 'duels' while also testing NATO defences between Scotland, Iceland and Greenland in the Atlantic, say reports in Moscow. The most recent cat and mouse game last week involved Northern Fleet submarines NISHNY NOVGOROD and PSKOV in 'sparring and tracking' war games. 'They executed electronic launches, and at the conclusion of the drill, real launches of torpedoes without warheads,' reported official Russian government newspaper Rossiyskaya Gazeta.



Russian media have reported that nuclear fast attack submarines have been involved in two 'underwater duel' scenarios in recent weeks. The most recent war games took place when the NISHNY NOVGOROD, pictured

above, challenged the PSKOV, also pictured above, in 'sparring and tracking' simulations in the Norwegian Sea. Russian media added that the Pskov and Novgorod, known as the 'titanium destroyers', were of particular concern to NATO military analysts"



The Russian Navy launched another 'duel' in the waters around Kamchatka. The VLADIMIR MONOMAKH submarine, pictured, and ALEXANDER NEVSKY submarines fought in a simulated battle scenario and Russian media reported that one of them acted as the Western enemy". 'Prior to this the submarines conducted submergences to maximum depth and tested new weapons in the Norwegian Sea.'

Another 'duel' - with one nuclear submarine playing the role of a Western enemy - was conducted by the ALEXANDER NEVSKY and VLADIMIR MONOMAKH vessels off the coast of Kamchatka.

Rossiyskaya Gazeta claimed its Western military foes were 'most alarmed' by Russian training sessions in the North Atlantic aimed at 'penetrating an antisubmarine barrier which the Alliance deployed between Greenland, Iceland, and Scotland' equipped with the SOSUS sonar system.

Participation in the exercise of Sierra III-Class submarines NISHNY NOVGOROD and PSKOV 'caused particular alarm of NATO military analysts'.

The report stated: 'They are nicknamed 'titanium destroyers' for the hull material and range of missions performed, the main one being destruction of enemy strategic submarines and carrier groups at the beginning of a conflict.

'The high-speed submarines are capable of moving covertly at great depth, and their armament - torpedoes, rocket-torpedoes, and KALIBR cruise missiles - make boats of this type among the most formidable marine predators.'

SALIVATION ARMY!

Tunnocks Ltd. sign the Armed Forces Covenant

HMNBC.69/19: Wednesday, 6 November 2019

Sir Boyd Tunnock CBE, inventor of the legendary Tunnock's Teacake and owner of confectionary empire Tunnock's Ltd., visited HM Naval Base Clyde on Wednesday, November 6, to sign the Armed Forces Covenant.

The head of the family-owned, Uddingston-based business was invited to the Home of the UK Submarine Service by Rear Admiral John Weale CB OBE, Rear

Admiral Submarines. During the visit Sir Boyd was shown around Royal Navy Astute Class attack submarine and also spent time with Royal Marines from 43 Commando Fleet Protection Group.

Signing the Covenant onboard the casing of the Astute Class boat Sir Boyd said:

"It was a real honour to visit the men and women of the Royal Navy who sacrifice so much to defend the Nation's interests at home and abroad, and to whom we owe so much. As a family-owned business we invest heavily in our workforce. It was inspiring to see so many people benefitting from all of the training and experience that the Royal Navy has to offer.

"I spent two years in the Army after getting called up for National Service. Because of my background I ended up being posted to the Catering Corps and cooked for 600 soldiers.

"Tunnocks has a long-standing relationship with the Armed Forces and the values and standards I learned in the Army are principles that I use to run the business to this day. I was very proud to reaffirm our support by signing the Armed Forces Covenant and I would have no hesitation in encouraging other defence-friendly employers to do the same."

The nation's favourite Teacake has a special place in the Submarine Service. For decades it has been a favourite for the Scots-based submarines, eaten during 'Four-O'Clockers' – snack-time during a patrol where a Teacake or Caramel Wafer is the treat of choice.

Commodore Bob Anstey, who signed the covenant on behalf of the Royal Navy said: "It was a great pleasure to welcome Sir Boyd to the Clyde for his signing of the Armed Forces Covenant today. Sir Boyd is well known by the Submarine Service and we have all enjoyed his iconic teacakes and wafers over the years. We look forward to continuing our close relationships with him and his team.

"As a keen sailor and supporter of maritime activities, Sir Boyd is a welcome addition to the ever-growing Armed Forces Community."



Commodore Bob Anstey with Sir Boyd Tunnock CBE as they sign the Armed Forces Covenant onboard an Astute Class Submarine.



Commodore Bob Anstey and Sir Boyd Tunnock CBE with the Armed Forces Covenant on the casing of the Astute Class Submarine



Sir Boyd Tunnock CBE is welcomed onboard the Astute Class submarine



Sir Boyd Tunnock CBE enjoys his waterborne tour of HMNB Clyde.

Sent by: Gavin Carr, Royal Navy Media & Comms, HM Naval Base Clyde.

The Armed Forces Covenant

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, are treated fairly.

Germany Full Steam Ahead with 212CD Submarine Procurement & Yard Expansion

By Nathan Gain 5th November 2019



(Credit: TKMS)

The German Defence Ministry announced on Oct. 31 it will procure a further two Type 212 submarines, in a global move to invest ten billion euros in new equipment in 2020.

Among other topics, the focus is on cooperation with Norway in the class 212 submarines, where two submarines are also to be procured for the German Navy, the German Defense Ministry said following a meeting with the Federal Office of Bundeswehr Equipment, Information Technology and In-Service Support (BAAINBw) project managers.

The German Navy already operates six Type 212 submarines, while Norway intends to acquire four units to replace the Ula-class submarines that were commissioned between 1989-1992. A contract is expected in the first half of 2020. The two navies selected the new Type 212 CD (Common Design) variant, which will have extended range, speed and endurance. Germany is procuring two submarines in a similar configuration to the four on order by Norway.

The announcement comes as the Type 212 builder, thyssenkrupp Marine Systems announced that it will be investing 250 million euro in Kiel by 2023. The objective is to develop the shipyard into an international competence centre for conventional submarine construction. Thanks to the currently good development with new orders, around 500 new employees will be hired throughout the company by the end of 2020, the majority of them in Kiel. The company is looking primarily for engineers and skilled workers, particularly in R&D, construction and manufacturing, » TKMS said.

During the first few months of this year, TKMS christened the largest conventional submarine ever built in Germany for Singapore and the third of four submarines for Egypt. With the 212CD project for building a total of six identical submarines for Norway and Germany, thyssenkrupp Marine Systems, together with its customers and partners, intends to create the European NATO standard of the future in the field of conventional submarines, the shipyard added.

Type 212CD: a new standard for export?

TKMS is also currently involved in a competition in the Netherlands, for the replacement of the Walrus-class. TKMS' proposal is based on the Type 212CD. The "letter B" which is the equivalent of a down select is expected any day now. TKMS is competing against Navantia, Naval Group and Saab.

Naval News understands that the Type 212CD could also be selected by the Italian Navy to fill its need for four additional submarines. The Marina Military currently has 4 Todaro-class submarines (Type 212 design) and Sauro-class submarines. Four Type 212 (likely in its CD variant) would be replacing the ageing Sauro-class as outlined in the Strategic Planning document released earlier this year.

Another country where TKMS is actively pitching the Type 212 is Poland for the Orka program. According to our information, the German shipbuilder and government could be proposing two second-hand ex-German Navy Type 212 in a very competitive deal. The German Navy could then place an order for two more Type 212CD to replace the submarines transferred to Poland. This would have the benefit of reducing the unit cost of the "Common Design" variant, and could have a positive impact in Norway, the Netherlands and even Italy.

ROYAL NAVY DIVERS DO THEIR BIT TO STOP PLASTIC POLLUTION

HMNBC82/19 Friday, 29 November 2019

Members of the Royal Navy's Reserve Diving Group (RDG) recently picked up plastic from the seabed while training around the Kyle of Lochalsh. During the week-long Weapons Training diving, the team of 16 divers practiced endurance swimming in tidal conditions, operating in Scuba equipment in depths of up to 30 metres which meant that the divers were quite often close to the seabed.

Lieutenant Commander (Lt Cdr) Richard Watson, who was coordinating the training, thought it would be good to do a little bit for the environment and asked his divers to look out for and recover any plastics they spotted while down there.

"These plastics certainly could be a hazard to the extensive marine mammals found around the Kyle of Lochalsh. These mammals range from otters, seals and porpoises to whales and are quite prolific in the Kyles and Sound of Raasay sea areas, said Lt Cdr Watson.

"Over a period of time, as the plastic breaks down, it can be a hazard to smaller marine species. If we all do our little bit to clean up our environment, we may help improve the seas around the United Kingdom that are contaminated with plastics."

The Reserve Diving Group (RDG) support Fleet Diving Squadron in Maritime Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance and consist of personnel from many different civilian careers, such as Police and Fire Service as well as former Regular Royal Navy and Army divers. They can be called upon by the Commanding Officer Fleet Diving Squadron to conduct searches of ship's hulls, jetties and inshore and offshore installations. The team train regularly to maintain the high level of diving endurance which is required to fulfil this requirement. Fleet Diving Squadron are ready to deploy 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, to safely identify and neutralise threats underwater. They deploy worldwide in a matter of hours, using unique skills to ensure ships and shipping lanes are safe, and reduce the danger posed to coastal areas by reducing the chance of mines washing up on the shore.

Sent by: Kim Hardie, Royal Navy Media & Comms, HM Naval Base Clyde.



Members of the Reserve Diving Group with the pile of plastic recovered from the seabed.

Comment:

Next time the Diving Team are at Kyle of Lochalsh I wonder if they might take some time to look at recovering the many Tigerfish Outboard Dispensers, TMD Hosepipes, and lost torpedoes and other debris etc. from all the many years of weapons firing exercises on the Rona Range?

ROYAL NAVY ROYAL MARINE CHARITY – SUBMARINES (RNRMC-SM) A Letter from Rear Admiral Submarines

1. I made a statement at the March 2019 Submarine Association AGM that my intent as RASM was to establish the Submarine Community under the umbrella of the RNRMC to gain the benefits of charity status and support from the Navy which does not wish to see a proliferation of individual Service Specialisation charities. After significant dialogue with the RNRMC, I am now able to report an agreed way ahead that will benefit both communities of Submariners and the RNRMC Submarine Community

2. In defining the Submarine Community, I include all the different fractions, groups and families that constitute the broad Submarine Community, both serving uniform and non-serving Dolphin Badge-wearers (an important qualifying

criteria) and their immediate family members. The intent is neither to change nor impose change on any organisation or individual within the Submarine Community, but rather to offer an opportunity for all to decide whether they wish to become members or contribute to the RNRMC for the benefit of all Submariners.

RNRMC

3. The RNRMC is the principle Royal Navy and Royal Marine Charity with direct links to the Greenwich Hospital Trust and Navy Board. Although an established organisation and charity, the RNRMC is actively considering how it must evolve to support the needs of the different RN and RM communities. Recognising the tribal nature of the different specialisations within the Royal Navy, the RNRMC has given serious deliberation to the proposal for the Submarine Service to have its own Fund under the umbrella of the RNRMC. The RNRMC Board recently decided to support the proposal and to adopt the Submarine Service through the development of a dedicated SM Benevolent Fund, overseen by a joint Management Board.

4. Following separate meetings with the CEO RNRMC, the RASM Board has agreed to establish a Submarine Benevolent Fund with the RNRMC initially funded by monies from the serving community, with opportunities for all members of the Submarine Community to make donations. A combined Submarine/RNRMC Management Board will also be established to manage and arbitrate how funds should be spent.

RNRMC-SM Development, Criteria and Processes

5. Benevolent Fund. The intent is for the RNRMC-SM Benevolent Fund to be established by the end of 2019, with circa £10K donated by the RASM Fund. Income generation for the Fund will be realised through:

- a. Transfer of profits from the RASM Fund, which will continue to manage merchandise locally;
- b. Serving Personnel to be encouraged to support monthly payroll giving to the RNRMC, with contributions transferred to the RNRMC-SM Fund as directed by the individual donor;
- c. Non-serving submariners can bequeath and/or make donations to the RNRMC-SM Fund, with the full amount being directly transferred to the SM Fund. Regular individual giving can be made via the RNRMC website;
- d. Non-Serving submariners both working and retired can also donate through their pay or pension to the RNRMC if their employer/pension scheme operates a payroll giving scheme;
- e. No subscriptions are required to the Submarine Benevolent Fund, wealth is dependent on what merchandise is sold and donations made direct to the RNRMC-SM.

RNRMC-SM Board

6. An RNRMC-SM Board will be established, comprised of:

- a. Chairperson. The Chairperson will be elected but in the first instance, to establish the Board and implement the RNRMC-SM, Chair will be Rear Admiral Weale until the Board and Fund are properly established;
- b. RASM or DRASM and EWO(SM) as senior Serving representatives;
- c. CEO RNRMC;
- d. RNRMC-SM Fund manager, appointed by RNRMC;
- e. RNRMC-SM Fund grants manager, appointed by RNRMC;
- f. Representatives/Chairperson from different Submarine Groups and Organisations:
 - i. Submariners Association;
 - ii. We Remember Submariners (WRS);
 - iii. Perisher Club;
 - iv. Friends of the Submarine Museum.
- g. Respective Submarine organisations are to nominate their Board representative.

7. Frequency of Board meetings. The RNRMC-SM Board will meet quarterly with one of the meetings representing an annual Board meeting scheduled to coincide with the Submarine Association AGM.

8. Inaugural Board to be called in New Year 2020.

Objectives of the RNRMC-SM.

9. Objectives of the Fund include the promotion of:

- a. The welfare of all Submariners (Serving and Retired) and their families;
- b. Submarine ethos;
- c. Submarine Heritage.

Application for funds

10. Any submariner and or Submarine Organisation can apply for a grant from the Fund, noting that the Board will arbitrate whether the application:

- a. Satisfies the objectives of the Fund;
- b. Can be supported by the Fund;

c. Whether the applicant has made any contribution, financial or otherwise, to the RNRMC-SM.

11. All applicants can also separately and independently apply direct to the RNRMC in addition to the RNRMC-SM.
Relationship between RNRMC-SM and other Submarine groups and organisations

12. The RNRMC-SM provides the broader submarine community with an opportunity to access funds and support the Objectives of the Fund, it is not the intent to replace how the separate Submarine Groups and Organisations are managed:

- a. RASM Board will endure for the management of in-service issues;
- b. The Submariners Association, Friends of the Submarine Museum, WRS and the Perisher Club will continue to be managed as is.

13. It remains the right of any Submarine Group or Organisation to neither support the formation of the RNRMC-SM nor to make any donations to the Fund.

Communications

14. Formal Minutes from RNRMC-SM Board meetings will be released to respective Submarine Groups and Organisations and, with the help of the RNRMC, a RNRMC-SM website will be established and managed.

The next steps

15. The following points have been identified as the 'next steps' towards the finalisation of the Fund:

- a. To promote donations and payroll giving to RNRMC;
- b. To establish the RNRMC-SM Benevolent Fund by end Dec 19;
- c. To establish RNRMC-SM Management Board for inaugural meeting early 2020.

COMMENT

When reading the RASM Letter above it might be pertinent to consider the following:

Top military charities sitting on £277m - while veterans struggle

There are 1,519 Military Charities in the UK and, combined, they are worth more than £3.1 Billion and the top 10 Military Charities reported a 31% increase in their combined income in the last five years.

Research carried out by Sky News has revealed that some of the UK's largest military charities are sitting on vast sums of money despite many veterans still struggling for help. Data collated from annual accounts shows that the ten wealthiest armed forces charities have cash reserves totalling £277m. This is money sitting in bank accounts unused. One chief executive has described it as "a scandal" and another admitted it shouldn't happen.

It is common practice, and sensible, for charities to keep six to 12 months' income in reserve in case of financial problems, but one charity, the RAF Benevolent Fund, has almost two years' income (£37.4m) in reserve. In a statement to Sky News, the charity defended itself, saying: "Our board of trustees has agreed a minimum of £30m in free reserves is required to ensure we are able to look after those members of the RAF family we support, throughout their lifetime, whatever happens to the fund. "Robust financial management of our reserves is based upon long-term projections of the needs of the RAF family (serving and retired personnel and their dependants), taking into account the uncertainty of future income."

The data, collated by Victoria Elms for Sky News, has revealed further surprising statistics. In the five years since the end of Afghan operations, military charities' income has actually grown by 31%, making the 1,519 registered military charities in the UK now worth a collective £3.1bn. The top 10 military charities are worth nine times more than their police equivalents and seven times more than the top 10 civilian mental health charities.

Veterans interviewed by Sky News complained that the money wasn't always filtering down to those who needed it and the bureaucracy had left some of them suicidal. "Every time I have to open this box it breaks me," one said, describing the mound of letters he has sent to the government and charities pleading for help.

Ed Tytherleigh from the Confederation of Service Charities admitted that co-ordination between charities could be better: "At the local level I think there is really good bilateral co-ordination between different veteran's charities. But I do agree that on a national level there is a lack of overall strategic co-ordination in how the veterans' charities operate. "There are some wonderful exceptions but, as a rule, as a whole, we are not collaborating as we should do."

"If an individual reaches out for help, they should get it," said Ed Parker, chief executive of 'Walking With The Wounded'.

"And if an organisation is unable to provide it to that individual there will be another one that can. One should never just say no, and if it does happen, it's a failure."

Although veterans' care in the UK has improved markedly in recent years, and the current government has established the first office for Veterans' Affairs, the Veterans' Minister himself, Johnny Mercer, has previously said the way the UK treated its veterans was a disgrace.

The research has been published to mark five years since the end of combat operations in Afghanistan.

Question: Could the proposed Submariners Association Charity end up like one of these Charities, money in the bank while submariners who need support struggle?

The Desmond Gerrish Biography

(Continued from the November issue of Periscope View)

1953

The Captain taught me, on the Bridge for a few hours that first day, the somewhat complicated rules for manoeuvring as a submarine target/attacker ship.

Ship and submarine were allocated a box area on the chart. Adjacent box areas were allocated to other ships and submarines. You were responsible for your own submarine's navigation once she had dived to make sure she did not collide with the ships and submarines next door. The ship steered complex zigzags set down in the Admiralty Manual. The submarine had to steer towards you and attack with 'pretend' torpedoes – he fired a red Grenade Flare to simulate firing torpedoes. Then you would both open out to start another Attack Run – about twelve to fifteen runs a day was normal.

To get in position for a torpedo attack the submarine would have to expose his periscopes several times – albeit for just a few seconds. Our job – the O.O.W. and his two lookouts – was to sight that periscope and then the O.O.W. broke away from the zigzag and steered at Full Speed to ram the periscope! It was entirely the submarine's responsibility to go deep before you rammed her! The first time I did this, with Longbottom at my elbow, my nerves were taut as we sped over the patch of water where the periscope had been, praying there would be no grinding collision which meant instant death to the submarine. You got used to it in time, but we later heard of several close shaves when the submarine was late or slow in his act of plunging deep and safe below your keel.

After a couple of Attack Runs, that first day, the Captain said, "Okay, Gerrish, you've got the hang of it. All yours; I'll be in my cabin if you need me".

And so you learned – very fast in the hot seat, so much so that by the end of the my month you were competent in command of the ship involved with Runs of three frigates being attacked by two submarines in the one box at high attack speeds.

On Sunday we were resting moored to a buoy in Rothesay Bay. H.M.S. CONTEST, a destroyer, was the only other warship in Rothesay Bay that weekend, similarly moored to a buoy and she happened to be Duty Emergency Ship that day. It was blowing a severe Gale Force 9. At noon we received the first news that the Stranraer to Larne (Scotland to Ireland) Ferry, S.S. PRINCESS VICTORIA, was encountering mountainous seas on her short passage to Larne. At about 1 o'clock the Ferry reported 'difficulties' with the stern doors, but repairs progressing.

At three p.m. the Ferry's Master reported 'more difficulties with the repairs to the stern doors' and asked for a ship to stand by him. H.M.S. CONTEST was despatched and at 'best speed'. The storm was worsening. At five p.m. the Ferry reported 'taking in water around the stern doors' and we were ordered to sail as well. Shortly after five p.m. we got the desperate signal from the ferry 'Am sinking'. CONTEST was still crashing through the huge seas to get to her and arrived just after the PRINCESS VICTORIA had sunk, with the seas littered with dozens of wooden life rafts and three hundred and seventy men, women and children floating in life jackets. The Irish Lifeboat at Donaghadee was nearest to the disaster and rescued fourteen souls out of the sea. CONTEST saved another fourteen. They were the only ones saved out of the three hundred and seventy. It was dark, bitterly cold and icy winds of eighty mph turning the sea into a maelstrom. Most of the passengers died from cold within minutes of entering the sea.

We arrived on the scene at seven p.m. and joined the frantic rush search of going to every torchlight, attached to the lifejackets, to see if the wearer was still alive. The storm was dispersing the bodies, life rafts and debris over a very large area. The two warships were joined, as the night went on, by merchant ships diverted to the area,

Our sailors had to be roped with lifelines because the seas were rolling in over our decks and you would be swept overboard without a lifeline. The Bridge wasn't much better off – the standard open Bridge design of those days – as seas would break over occasionally, but always drenched with wind-washed spray. Conning the ship was okay since you had the pedestal compass to hang onto but, navigating on the paper chart – waterlogged – in the cupboard at the front of the bridge, was a nightmare. The Captain, of course, was conning the ship and two of us took turns in being O.O.W. to assist him. All four of us took turns in taking charge on deck, ready with scrambling nets and lifelines to rescue survivors – there was no question of lowering a boat. It soon became clear the most important job for the Deck Officer was not to lose any of our own sailors overboard.

By ten p.m. that foul night we must have brought the ship close alongside over one hundred 'torch lights' and stopped just long enough to examine the 'wearers' very closely under our powerful searchlights for any sign of life. Sometimes it was just one person, dead in the lifejacket, sometimes clusters of two, three or four. And the wooden life rafts had torches too, so we examined those. Sometimes there would be dead people who had tied themselves or been tangled up in the life rafts' ropes.

By now all of us at the scene knew only a miracle would produce even one person alive. The ferry's two big main lifeboats had been found earlier on – upside down. We knew they were empty because the violent seas occasionally rolled them upright for us to look into.

So, we organised a planned search on the chart, allocating the two warships and three merchant ships with boxes on the chart for each of us to search methodically, throughout the night. I took over as O.O.W. for the Middle Watch – midnight to 0400 – found things had quietened down and the five ships all steering legs inside their own search boxes. The Captain, exhausted, went to rest in the bunk at the back of the Bridge about 0100.

At about 0300 the merchant ship in the box next to me suddenly turned the wrong way out of her box and right across my bows. She was a big ship too, almost like a liner. No time to wake the Captain, I took violent evasion manoeuvres and we passed safely under her stern. The Captain arrived just as I was manoeuvring clear of the merchant ship. He realised what had happened and said I had acted just as he would have done. I had his complete trust from now on.

The search for anyone still alive was called off next morning and we spent the rest of Monday recovering the dead bodies – gruesome. We landed our 'mortuary', about seventy, in Belfast on the Tuesday and returned to Target Training for submarines in the Clyde areas.

One of my several duties was Boarding and Landing Officer. It was arranged that the Armed Landing Parties of CONTEST - and ourselves - would carry out an exercise on the remote end of Rothesay Island. CONTEST's contingent were to act as rebel guerrillas and my Platoon had to land, find them and engage them. The ship's boats landed us as close to the target hills as possible and off we set following compasses and maps on a raw day in February. We tramped for hours through marshland and bogs, ate our meagre rations, lugging our rifles, Brens and radios. Frequently lost on the map and soaked by incessant rain. We never saw a solitary soul, never mind CONTEST's Platoon. My orders were to return to the jetty in Rothesay town and signal for a boat before 8 p.m. that night. That was a distance of six miles. Hardly had we started back on the coast road when a bus trundled along so in we piled. It was days later before the Captain learned about our bus 'lift' and was furious! It was having drinks in CONTEST that the two Captains squeezed all the details from me and my opposite number in CONTEST (also in the dog-house – they were worse lost than us) and it all simmered down to a big joke. Sailors aren't soldiers!

I enjoyed my four months at Woodbridge Haven and learned a lot and left with a good report to join the R.N. College, Greenwich, after my Easter Leave.

So, at Greenwich, the twenty of us ex-Upper Yardmen Sub. Lts. were re-united and to meet the one hundred or so ex Cadet/Midshipman/Sub. Lts. who were to be our term mates for the next two years. Their intake included Canadians, New Zealanders, Australians, Indians and Pakistanis – all undergoing British training until joining their own Navies as fully qualified Sub. Lts.

We had to complete two terms of 'General Studies' at Greenwich before starting eighteen months of intensive Navy Training – Gunnery, Torpedoes, Navigation etc. at the great Schools spread around Portsmouth.

Greenwich taught nothing Navy. We were allowed to choose some subjects of interest to oneself and all of us studied English History, English Language and Mechanics. I added a study of World War 1 and studies of the British Theatre to this list. The Tutors were mainly civilians – Honours Degree men and a sprinkling of Navy Officer Teachers, plus one Army Major on the teaching staff who was my tutor for World War 1 Studies. Perks of studying theatre were the constant supplies of free tickets to most shows in London! Penalty was being cajoled to join College's Amateur Dramatic Group who put on one blockbuster play each term in the high league groups around London who vied with each other and vied with the pros. This was not my scene at all and skived out by 'achieving' small bit parts. One play was Shakespeare's Henry IV Part 2 which rambled away for three hours. The leading parts took all their spare time for the whole Term, learning their lines and rehearsing.

Sport was predominant. Each Term numbered approximately one hundred and twelve Sub. Lts., making two hundred and twenty-four very fit cookies to make up teams. The College ran a 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Rugby team. Similarly, for Hockey. We ran only two Soccer teams.

I graduated from the 4th to the 3rd Rugby team and played in the 2nd Hockey team. The fixtures involved all the top-drawer teams around London – Barts, Guys, London University, Sandhurst etc. and Hockey Fixtures were centred around Tunbridge Wells – the Mecca for English Hockey.

The leagues played away every Wednesday and Saturday and the away games took us to most interesting places with fabulous post-game evening parties.

LIVING IN THE COLLEGE

Allocated three to a room, sparsely furnished, but huge sized rooms, with communal bathrooms spread around the long corridors. All meals in the wonderful Painted Hall, served by ex-Servicemen civilian stewards. Solid silver antique cutlery and tableware and the College's own chinaware. We lived well. The main Bar was underneath the Painted Hall, devoid of anything smacking of modern living comforts. Just about the same as a large 18th Century London tavern – flag stoned floors, dim lighting and very little furniture – but endless space and a very long bar for service. Even the ashtrays were the copper Spit kids salvaged from the old sailing ships, which sat on the flagstones (the spit kids – not the sailing ships!). And we loved the 'Dungeon'. You were not distracted by bric-a-brac and ornaments from the sole object of

downing a good pint in very lively company and endless risqué yarning.

The College above ground is built upon a labyrinth of stone walled tunnels and corridors leading to storerooms and the like. When you got to know the geography well, on rainy days, you could get to any College building without getting wet. Except to the WRENS' Quarters, where the underground corridor leading to that tempting sanctuary had been shut off with iron gates which Colditz would have been proud of!

We stayed as a group of ex-Upper Yardmen for 'pubbing' and did the same for the 'Prospect of Whitby' on the riverfront at Wapping as we had for 'Still and West' in Southsea. Getting there wasn't easy – through the Blackwall road tunnel. Very few Sub. Lts. owned a car. Bill Thornily inherited a stately old Hillman Minx from an aunt. The record for crushing passengers inside and hanging on the outside was a total of twelve. Chris had a Bullnose Morris – an antique even then. And Frank Sprague had a ridiculous sports car with the largest bonnet ever built, leaving two seats for normal passengers. We squeezed in four!

So, this fleet of three weird models somehow got us to and fro the Prospect most evenings. There were no Drink/Drive laws in those days otherwise we would have been imprisoned for life. Travel into and around London was easy and cheap; trains, Tubes or buses.

Our spending money didn't go far in London. We were always skint. Two extra sources of nightlife income we quickly tapped were WRENS or American tourists.

The contracts were very simple:

WRENS - we will take you to 'Prospect' if you buy our beer

Yanks - we will let you join in with our singing and antics if you keep buying us beer

Most of us went up to London on the night before Coronation Day to enjoy the parties and extra 'buzz' as the crowds poured into London.

A few of us returned to the College at about dawn, to bathe, change into dry clothes and breakfast before going 'Up West' again. Unbeknown to me then, Hazel was one of the sightseers and probably we passed very close to each other.

We had no special advantages and had to jostle for sites which would give a good view of the Queen and the procession. The end-of-term Ball was always a grand occasion, more so this summer of 1953 with London packed with nobs attending the Coronation.

Summer Leave from Greenwich was ridiculously long – seven weeks – and most of us used the time to earn extra money ready for the next term's demands. I worked with a farm near Walsall and clocked up a little extra cash plus a good workout for flabby muscles.

We said goodbye to Greenwich College in December 1953 and, after Christmas Leave, all of us turned up at Portsmouth. There were nine Schools we all had to pass there, so we were split up into nine Groups, approximately fourteen Sub. Lieutenants to each Group.

To be continued in December 2019.

STILL LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT?

How about a 'Limited Edition' print from the Submarine Heritage Collection? I have immediately available:

HMS DREADNOUGHT (the 1963 one!)	Four copies
HMS VANGUARD	Two copies
HMS PORPOISE	One copy
X51 Class	One copy
A Class in Halifax, Nova Scotia	Two copies
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Available at £25.00 each – original price £45 – all proceeds to Barrow Branch Funds

Some other submarine prints may also be available on enquiry. Contact the Secretary for details

SUBMARINERS 'CROSSED THE BAR' REPORTED TO 2nd DECEMBER 2019

Branch	Date	Name	Rank/Rate	O/N	Age	Submarine Service
Non-member	20 th October 2019	Charles James Fielding (Seamus) McLaughlin	Leading Seaman Torpedoman (HO)	M033504	97	Submarine Service in WWII to 1944
Norfolk Branch (Lapsed)	24 th October 2019	George A (Gabby) Hayes	Chief Petty Officer (TI)	P/JX 889762	84	Submarine Service from March 1954 to January 1976 in TRUNCHEON, THERMOPYLAE, TABARD, PORPOISE, AENEAS & VALIANT
Non-member	2 nd November 2019	Graham Peter Harrison Cooper	Lieutenant Commander (I)	TBA	72	Submarine Service from January 1974 to 1978 in CACHALOT (1974 to 1975), NEPTUNE (RNPS 1976 to 1978)
Non-member	3 rd November 2019	Stephen Paul Gwilt	Leading Seaman (UW)	TBA	63	Submarine Service from 1971 to September 1976 in NARWHAL & PORPOISE
Non-member	4 th November 2019	Matthew John Inness	Lieutenant	TBA	40	Submarine Service from 2002 to 2013 in SOVEREIGN (2003), SULTAN (2004), SPARTAN (2005 to 2006), NEPTUNE (2007 to 2009), DES (2010 to 2011) & AMBUSH (2012)
Ex Portsmouth Branch	6 th November 2019	Colin Liney	Leading Marine Engineering Mechanic (M)	D133679M	62	Submarine Service from October 1975 to September 1986 in OPOSSUM on 'Commissioning' at DOLPHIN on 14 th November 1981 & OTUS
Non-member	11 th November 2019	Charles Andrew Barkly Nixon-Eckersall	Captain	TBA	81	Submarine Service from 1958 to 1979 in SEASCOUT, SENTINEL, SCORCHER, TACTICIAN (3/O 59), AMBUSH (3/O) & (IL), OSIRIS (TO Jan 1964), ARTEMIS (IL Sep 1965), OBERON (IL), ALLIANCE (IL), ONSLOW (RAN) (CO 69 to 71 & COURAGEOUS (CO)
Northern Ireland Branch	13 th November 2019	Andrew Hutchinson	Able Seaman	P/JX 518877	93	Submarine Service: 1943 – 1946 in SPORTSMAN (August 1944 to 1946)
Sunderland Branch	21 st November 2019	Malcolm Carr	LME	P/KX 970926	78	Submarine Service from 1960 to 1968 in SEALION on 'Commissioning' on 21 st July 1961, ANDREW on commissioning on 11 th December 1964, TOTEM & REPULSE
Former Colchester & Essex Branches	23 rd November 2019	Donald John Church	Able Seaman (UW3)	P/SSX 871344	85	Submarine Service from 1 st October 1952 to 5 th April 1959 in SEADEVIL, TEREDO, TRENCHANT, TRESPASSER & SERAPH
North East Branch	November 2019	Robert Harrison	Petty Officer (ME)	P/K 981198	76	Submarine Service from November 1962 to May 1970 in ANCHORITE (1963 to 1965), RESOLUTION (P) (1966 to 1968 1 st Commission Crew) & VALIANT (1968 to 1970)
Submarine Officers Association	1 st December 2019	John Lorimer, DSO	Commander	N/A	97	WWII Service. X3 (IL November 1942 – escape after accidental sinking) & X6 (IL Operational Crew - Operation Source TIRPITZ September 1943). PoW September 1943 to May 1945