

PERISCOPE VIEW

The Newsletter of the Barrow-in Furness Branch of

The Submariners Association

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

Issue No: 243 www.submarinersassociation.co.uk October 2020



Editorial	Pages 2
Secretary Report	Page 2 to 5
Social Secretary's Report	Page 5 & 6
Photos	Pages 6 & 7
Submarine Losses of WWII	Page 8 to 10
ASTUTE 10th Birthday	Page 10 & 11
Spearfish Mod 1	Page 12
Desmond Gerrish Biography (continued)	Pages 13 & 14
HMS HERMES/INS VIRAAT	Page 15
Crossed the Bar	Page 16

BRANCH OFFICERS

Hon President: Alan Hoskins 01229 588792 Abhoskins@btinternet.com

Chairman:

Richard Cambridge 01229 586668 Richardecambridge@outlook.com

Secretary:

David A J Smith 01229 583008 davidajsmith@msn.com

Social Secretary:

Alex Webb 01229 839551 alexian1516@hotmail.com

Treasurer & Membership:

Mick Mailey 01229 821290
Michael.mailey@btinternet.com

Chaplaincy:

Vacancy

Committee Members:

Steve May 07974 357014 snm18463@yahoo.co.uk Mark Butchart 07965 272933 m.butchart@hotmail.co.uk Jeff Thomas 01229 464943 jeffbrendathomas@tiscali.co.uk

Welfare:

Mick Mailey 01229 821290 Michael.mailey@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor:

Barrie Downer 01229 820963 frozennorth55@gmail.com

Standard Bearer:

Alex Webb 01229 839551 alexjan1516@hotmail.com

Slops:

Malcolm Hogg 07768 170325 bloke52@hotmail.co.uk

Website Manager:

Dave Oakes 01229 475140
Dave.oakes@btinternet.com

Cover Picture:

Dave Oakes Birthday Party at the Hope & Anchot

'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

Hello Everybody,

Are you all still 'Self Isolating', 'Social Distancing', wearing your masks and washing your hands every five minutes? Still sticking to your 'Social Bubble' (whatever one of those is) and keeping to your 'Group of Six' maximum? All very boring isn't it! Still no end in sight and who knows what the next restrictions will be or when?

Anyway there are still all those important decisions to make like: What day of the week is it? Is it Friday again already? What shall we do today? Shall we go for a walk? What shall we have for dinner today?

Still enough about all that. At least we managed a Branch Meeting in September and it was nice to meet some other Members at last. We might even make another Meeting in October – you never know! The rearranged and reduced version of the K2B walk was cancelled despite everyone hoping it could go ahead Thanks to all those who made it to Thorncliffe for Dave Craven's funeral. Some of his friends from

CHURCHILL and the Blackpool and the Beds & Herts Branch came up as well. As you will see from the photos there was a good attendance at Daves's Wake at the Hope and Anchor and for Bob and Mary Hagen's Anniversary and Dave Oakes' Birthday.

The 'Thursday Afternoon' Zoom Meetings restarted last week and it looks like we might need to continue with them for the foreseeable future

This month we start the run down to the Remembrance Ceremonies in November - both in London and in Barrow but with no clue yet whether anything will be possible.

Not a lot else to tell you this the month so new you can read what Alex has tell you about Social situation and what Dave Smith has to tell you from the Secretarial Front. Take care everyone and keep an eye out for your friends and relations!

Best Regards,

Barrie

SECRETARY'S REPORT

After a successful Branch Meeting on the 1st. September I am pleased to say that the RBL has continued to work within the confines of the latest COVID requirements and has improved the arrangements at the Holker Street site. Having

spoken to the RBL President there are some changes that the Branch Members will have to embrace for the next planned meeting on 6th. October.

- a. Face coverings (masks etc.) must be worn on entry and hands sanitized. The masks are to remain on until seated. Face coverings must be used when moving around the club, transiting to another bar, the toilets or exiting the premises.
- b. Everyone is to register on entry which includes contact details. The Branch attendance list will be provided to accommodate this, so that a copy can be provided to the RBL for Track and Trace purposes.
- c. It is 'table service only' and all tables are numbered in both the lounge and Concert Hall.
- d. Those who arrive early can use the lounge bar but must sit at a table where their drinks orders will be taken. These drinks may be taken into the meeting and the marked/arrowed route must be followed when transiting from the lounge bar to the Concert Hall (with face coverings on).
- e. When sitting in the Concert Hall for the meeting it is a maximum of 6 people from 2 households per table. Therefore it is recommended that members sit in pairs, unless they have their partners with them. This will ensure that compliance with the local Barrow Council rules of not more than two households or support groups can be seated together.
- f. As there is 'table service only' order cards will be provided at each table which can be filled in by members to order drinks, table number and drinks required, and then passed to the bar staff for processing. The bar staff will deliver to the table throughout the meeting in order to minimize waiting time during the stand easy period.

This will be a trial and error period, so members are asked to be patient. Members feedback is welcomed and if there any suggestion to help things run more smoothly, they will be considered.

SA Secretary Zoom Meeting

I took part in a Branch Secretary zoom meeting with 14 other Branch Secretaries. It was hosted by the National Secretary Ian Vickers. Various items were discussed with reports from:

- a. The Dundee service which was attended by Commodore Bob Ansty. As everyone who attend stayed in the same hotel it turned out to be an enjoyable gathering. Bob Ansty said that he would get his staff to arrange for an article to be placed in the Navy News.
- b. Although the SETT has been decommissioned it is still full of water and visits can be arranged for those who are interested.
- c. HMS TRENCHANT remains at sea spending one day alongside to re-store to ensure it stays COVID free. Concerns were expressed about the hardship of all those involved in particular the families (see Serving Members report below).
- d. There is still an opening for a National Slops Manager should anyone be interested in taking up the position. Contact Ian Vickers if you are.
- e. There was a discussion of the November Ceremonies arrangements which are still undecided (see para 5 below). There is an on-going dialogue with the various authorities but with the latest maximum of 6 ruling many of those attending the meeting were doubtful that any meaningful parade could take-place. We are waiting further feedback from the Parade Marshall, Iain MacKenzie, on the way forward. This also goes for any local arrangements. We shall be in touch with the local RBL and Council on what, if any, the arrangements will be. However, as the Battle of Britain event was cancelled or paired right back it unlikely that this year's parades will table-place. Correspondence.

The following correspondence has been forwarded via e-mail and is distributed for you information. e-mails from National Secretary:

Dundee Memorial Service:

I had a wonderful weekend. I was just glad to get out and have a beer with fellow submariners. This lockdown has deprived us of the chance to socialise and relax with mates. There were 22 of us at the memorial, just within the allowed number. No standards and a simple service. Most of us stayed in the Apex hotel for the two nights and went out only to eat on the Saturday night at the Indian. I would like to thank Ron Rietveld for organising the service. Below is the list of attendees:

Cdre. R. J. Anstey MA Royal Navy and Caroline (ACOS(SM)DFOSNI), Andrey Yakovlef and partner (Consul General Russian Federation Consulate Edinburgh, Maxim Gurov (Third Secretary Russian Federation Consulate Edinburgh), Ian Borthwick (Lord Lieutenant and Lord Provost of Dundee City Council.), Dennis Rawle (Chairman/Secretary Scottish Branch SA), John Peaker (Treasurer Scottish Branch SA), Peter Conway (Committee Member Scottish Branch SA), Cdr. Chris Leggett and Carol (Vice Chairman West of Scotland Branch SA), Mr. Ray Marra (Contact Dundee City Council) Master of Ceremony, Mr. Charles A Webster DL (Dundee City Council) The voice!!, Mr Brian Sullivan (Bugler), Ian Vickers (National Secretary) and Glynis, Stephen Collins, Rob Maloney from Manchester, Paul and Jane Ellis from Nottingham and Ron and Eileen Rietveld who organised everything

2. **The Not Forgotten Association** is seeking your support to find and thank our remaining World War II veterans, who have been denied their 75th anniversary celebrations by Covid-19. Can you pass this information on to any WW2 veterans.

3. Submarine Cycling Jersey.

I have had a request from John Sawers, a serving Lt. who has been selling Submarine Cycling Jerseys to serving submariners and is willing to open it up to our Association members. Also, would there be interest in a Submariners Association Cycling Club? The RMA have one - would be an excuse to get riders together (and we already have a jersey!) I have copied his email below:

"Due to popular demand, we are offering Batch III of the Submarine Cycling Jerseys (you may have seen them). For info the jerseys can be ordered direct through Shutt Velo:

https://shuttcustom.com/collections/royal-navy-submarine-service

Royal Navy Submarine Service Cycling - Sportline Jersey - Standard

This is not the only item for sale, see the website.

The use of this design was authorised by RASM last year and as it includes Dolphins, naturally we want to maintain control over who can order to qualified Submariners.

If you are interested, email me, John Sawers and I will give you the password.

Thanks, John Sawers johnsawers@mail.com (Lt RN - Serving, HMS TALENT & HMS VENGEANCE)

4. **SA Honorary Chaplain** The Reverend Professor Stephen Dray (Essex Branch) has been appointed as the Honorary Chaplain to the Submariners Association with immediate effect and he will conduct the Service at the Embankment Parade in November.

5. Submariners Remembrance Service at Middle Temple Gardens on Sunday 1st November 2020.

Members will be aware that revised COVID Guidance has been issued by the Government and that new strict rules on Meetings and Gatherings came into force on Monday 14th September. It is not known how long these new restrictions will remain in force. The NMC are making urgent enquiries of the relevant Authorities on whether the November Ceremonies can go ahead as planned, or on a reduced scale (possibly a maximum of six persons)' or must be cancelled altogether. It is unlikely that we will have an definitive answer for at least ten days. To this end it is recommended that Association Members and any other Submariners planning to attend the Ceremonies at the Middle Temple should avoid booking travel or accommodation until further information is available. Branch Secretaries will be informed as soon as the way ahead is clear, and updates will be posted on the Association Website. Ian Vickers, National Secretary

6. Proposed Cold War Submarine Museum

There is the potential for an excellent future for HMS COURAGEOUS, which are outlined below by Ian Whitehouse. I believe that this will be the one and only opportunity to save a Royal Navy nuclear submarine for future generations - which should be grasped as the opportunity will not happen again.

Can I ask if the message below can be given as much publicity on the website, emails and facebook to all the S/M Association membership to enable the target to be met please. Your anticipated help in this will be greatly appreciated. Below is a link to a crowd funding page for a project that Rear Admiral John Weale (recently retired FOSNI & RASM) and Ian Whitehouse (ex CO Sovereign) are working on with Plymouth City Council and the NMRN to establish a new Cold War Museum in Plymouth, with COURAGEOUS at its core, as part of the Devonport South Yard regeneration programme.

Detail of the proposal is found at the link. In essence, it is to remember the history of the Cold War from Plymouth which was the home of both the S and T class submarines, and the SM School before all training and operations migrate north to the Clyde and we lose the unique history of operational submarines in Plymouth. The intent is to try and raise £40K by Christmas such that we can complete a scoping study of the feasibility and costings for a Cold War Museum (Sub Hub) to include what work needs to be done to provide Courageous with a permanent home. Any donation you give will be gratefully received. Finances are being managed by the RNRMC and any funds donated above the target figure will be given to the RNRMC SMF charity.

https://www.iustgiving.com/crowdfunding/hmscourageous?utm_term=k2xZRzMRw

Please forward to all your submariner friends & colleagues, Kind regards, Pitt.k (former naval person)

b. WRS. You may not be aware, but there are ambitious plans to create a Cold War submarine museum in Plymouth. This is being driven by the former Rear Admiral Submarines, John Weale OBE. As many of you will have served on submarines during the Cold War, I hope you will agree that this is a period in our history that shouldn't be forgotten. The attached newsletter outlines the proposal and with the help of you all and Plymouth City Council, hopefully it will come to fruition.

Please take the time to read the newsletter, follow the links and support this project where you can.

Thank you, Kind regards, Ian Atkinson Chairman We Remember Submariners www.we-remember-submariners.com

7. **Serving Members Report:** Firstly please except my apologies for the little contact I have had in recent months. I am currently still serving away on HMS TRENCHANT and as we are a clean COVID free crew it is easier for us to stay at sea than risk pulling in anywhere. That being said ,we did pull into Faslane for a night to re-store food. I took this opportunity to invite Commodore Jim Perks to meet us on the jetty for a socially distance chat with the men. The

main topic of conversation was the Submarine Fund and the fact that it was now up and running. For those that already pay into the RNRMC there is no change our money will automatically be diverted to the Submarine Fund. There is a big drive to target the SMQ's during their dry training and word is getting out to the serving submariners. Unfortunately, I think it will be hard initially to get buy in until they see some of the money being spent and realise it will benefit them in the long run. COSM is taking ideas of how we can spend money to benefit ourselves and our families.

There has been a great response to the idea that Submariners will wear black cap covers instead of the traditional white this serves two purposes. One - it gives us recognition for the work we do and two - it will make us stand out and get people talking and asking questions which will help recruitment/retention. All trainees will be issued a set of black Dolphins to wear so they are recognisable as trainee submariners. As per tradition they will only be issued their Gold Dolphins once all the training requirements are met. Recruitment is on the rise and all training establishments are full (HMS RALEIGH/SULTAN & COLLINGWOOD). BRNC Dartmouth has been used as an overflow for trainees during Phase 1 Training. Although it will take a while for these trainees to come through the system it is a positive step for the Submarine Service.

SETT at Fort Blockhouse (HMS DOLPHIN) has finally closed its doors and the new SMEARAS training is starting in HMNB Clyde this month. This is a 'state of the art' facility and will provide realistic training for submarine escape and surface abandonment. When the world is back to normal and the NMC are in Faslane for a meeting or K13 remembrance this is well worth a visit if possible.

The message is well and truly out there about this year Remembrance Weekend in London. I believe they are going to limit the numbers of serving personnel to 30 uniformed. To allow the veterans to maximise the numbers of the ticket allocation. I will still be away so, unfortunately, I will not be there this year but I hope the weather holds for those that do manage to get a ticket. Many Thanks for your time in this matter Charlie Drake

Charlie Drake | CPO WS SSM | SONAR Department | HMS TRENCHANT

8. Welfare:

e-mail from Dave Oakes Not sure if you already know but I've just been told by his relations that Bob Pointer has stomach cancer and he's awaiting treatment.

9. Cross the Bar

A big thank you to all those who attended Dave Craven's funeral on the 17th September. Despite the current restrictions the Branch was well represented, and a celebration of his life took place in the Hope and Anchor, Ulverston.

Dave Smith

SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

Hi Shipmates

I hope that you are continuing to keepsafe & well, whilst looking out for others who may need it.

September was once again quiet and uneventfulmonth socially, sadly due to the restrictions that came in on the 14th I had to cancel the canal trip. Luckily I got all monies back and promised that I would try and revisit this event again next year when things are back to normalish.

We did have one get together to celebrate the life of our friend Dave Craven, it was a good turnout and all of us who went to the Hope and Anchor after the service were treated to a tot of rum from a cask that was bottled in 1958 - RIP Dave you will be missed

I am not sure if there will be any meetings for the foreseeable future, hopefully this will not be the case, however, if it is then due to social distancing I am not allowed to run a raffle or supply food. Also, because of the length of time that has elapsed and the restriction to numbers able to attend meetings I am not going to resume the members draw or birthday drinks; members draw because not all who want to attend will be able to and birthday drinks because funding for this is made from the raffles and social programme, therefore, I will continue with the birthday drinks from April next year which means we have had a complete year off and no one has dipped in or dipped out.

Now is the part where I give you a diary check, this has changed a bit and I will keep you updated with progress:

Diary Check:

- Race night planned for Saturday 10th October is cancelled for various reasons, but mainly due to restrictions in place
- Dinner dance planned for Fri 6th November is cancelled not much point having a dinner dance if you can't dance!!!!.
- Children's Christmas Party (Sat 12 Dec) is cancelled due to restrictions in place.
- Adults Christmas Party (Sat 19th Dec) is still a runner and I will keep this date open and if the opportunity arises we will stick with plan A, if not then a socially distanced get together will be organised.

- Our **Branch Birthday** never took place this year but I have used the deposit to rebook for 15th May 2021. Also, **Cartmel** and the **Canal Trip** didn't happen this year but the coach deposits have been transferred to the coach for next year's **First Footing** to Morecambe
- I had 4 names for the **Trafalgar Night** in Carnforth Me, Steve May, Bob Hagen & Dickie Cambridge so this list is now closed.

I do hopeto see you all soon, keep smiling and stay away from anyone who looks dodgy!!!! Alex



Branch Members and visitors at Thorncliffe on Thursday 17th September



At the Hope & Anchor on Thursday 17th September - 'Up Spirits'



Bob & Mary Hagen's Anniversay Cake

OCTOBER BRANCH CALENDAR

Oct Branch Meeting Tues 6th Oct Committee Meeting As Required

NOVEMBER BRANCH CALENDAR

Embankment Ceremony	Sun 1st Nov
Nov Branch Meeting	Tues 3rd Nov
BAE Crane Memorial	Fri 6th Nov?
Railway Memorial	Sat 7th Nov?
ANZAC Remembrance	Sun 8th Nov?
Barrow Remembrance	Sun 8th Nov?
Ulverston Remembrance	Sun 8th Nov?
Committee Meeting	As Required
DECEMBED DRANGE	

DECEMBER BRANCH CALENDAR

December Branch Meeting Tues 1st Dec Adults Xmas Party Sat 19th Dec

NOTE: All October/November/December Meetings and Events are subject to cancellation at short notice and are dependent on further Government advice!

OCTOBER BRANCH BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER BRAINCH BIRTHDATS					
M.C. (Mick) Mailey	02/10/1942				
G. (Gareth) Roberts	07/10/1969				
P. (Peter) Blake	10/10/1962				
J. (John) Rogers	10/10/1949				
D. (Dave) Young	14/10/1949				
J. (Janet) Webb	15/10/1964				
C. (Colin) Taylor	17/10/1956				
D. (Darren) Chamberlain	21/10/1976				
J.N. (James) McDougall	23/10/1985				
L. (Lawrence) Carr	25/10/1937				
S. (Stephen) Cannon	23/10/1976				
S (Sally) Hambling	28/10/1957				
R E. (Red) Skelton	30/10/1930				
A. (Andy) Roberts	30/10/1965				
L. (Lee) Burke	30/10/1985				

D. (David) Howard 31/10/1964 Happy Birthday All!

REMEMBERING FORMER BRANCH MEMBERS

'CROSSED THE BAR' -OCTOBER

CROULD THE DAK	OCIODER
Michael Kiely	1996
George Crane	2001
William Walker	2006
Bill Butters	2008
George Meadows	2008
Michael Bycroft	2011
Keith Charters	2012
Alex Hustwayte	2012
George (Vic) Buxton	2018

RESURGAM

DISCLAIMER

This Newsletter is published by the Submariners Association (Barrow in Furness) and is © 2020. The opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor, The Submariners Association, the MoD or the Submarine Service unless otherwise stated. The Submariners Association may not agree with the opinions expressed in this Newsletter but encourages publication as a matter of interest.

Nothing printed may be construed as policy or an official announcement unless so stated. Otherwise the Association accepts no liability on any issue in this Newsletter.

NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Do you have a story to tell or have information you feel should appear in the Newsletter then ring Barrie Downer on 01229 820963 or, if you wish to send me an article, my postal address is The Firs, Dundalk Street, Barrow

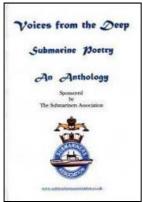
Island, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA14 2RZ You may also send your contribution by e-mail to me on frozennorth55@gmail.com. Come on – every Submariner has a story to tell – some more than one! Let's see yours in print!

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 October for the November 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!

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. Orders for the Book (14 copies still available) should be sent to me:

Barrie Downer, The Firs, Dundalk Street, Barrow Island, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA14 2RZ. Or you can always ask me at a Branch Meeting – whenever we have the next one!



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

SUBMARINE COMMISSIONING CREW LISTS

Commissioning Crew Lists are still coming in - thank you very much! However, things have slowed down a bit of late. I am still looking for 'First Commission' Submarine Crew Lists/Brochures as follows:

PORPOISE (1958), GRAMPUS (1958), NARWHAL (1959), CACHALOT (1959), WALRUS (1961), OBERON (1961), ORPHEUS (1960), ODIN (1962), OTUS (1963), ONYX (1967) & UNICORN (1993)

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 & 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

SUBMARINE LOSSES OF WWII

OCTOBER 1940

Three Submarines were lost in October 1940. They were:

Submarine HMS RAINBOW

HMS RAINBOW (Lt. Cdr. Lewis Peter Moore, RN) left Alexandria on 23rd September 1940. She was rammed and sunk by the Italian merchant Antonietta Costa about 60 nautical miles east-north-east of Bari, Italy in position 41°28′N, 18°05′E. The Submarine was lost with all hands. The date of loss is believed to have been 3rd October 1940. Those lost were:

Officers:

Lieutenant Commander Lewis Peter Moore, RN Lieutenant Patrick Chapman, RN Lieutenant Michael Harburn Davis, RN Lieutenant George William Tweed, RN Sub Lieutenant Douglas John Adcock, RN Lieutenant (E) William Robert Withey, RN Ratings:

CPO Angus McMillan J114714 CPO Alexander Charles Leslie-Reed J103456 PO Albert Henry Blackett P/JX 149924

L/Sea John Albert William Graham P/JX 151005

L/Sea Horace William Burgundy J112978

L/Sea William Fraser D/JX 137040

L/Sea John Leslie Stannard C/JX 135181

L/Sea Thomas Reginald Fletcher D/JX 138842

L/Sea Frank Pilkington D/JX 115173

L/Sea Thomas Henry Smith D/JX 136454

L/Sea Frederick John Young P/JX 132831

AB John Edwards C/SSX 14102

AB John Thomas Henry Wilkins C/JX 135126 AB James White P/JX 135374

AB George David Earl P/SSX 17045

AB Isaac William Cocking P/JX 139380

AB James Chick D/JX 125293

AB Thomas Dixon P/SSX 15879

AB George Henry Woodcock D/JX 137844

CPO Tel Ambrose Nelson Clive Guppy I68155

L/Tel John Frank Gregory D/SSX 14569

L/Tel James Philip Farrington P/JX 132295

L/Tel Joseph William Parker C/JX 137578

L/Tel Alfred Reuben Foster C/JX 133154

Sig Jack Jeffrey P/JX 138138

EA2 George Vincent Blackmore D/MX 45992

L/Cook John Frederick Dunn C/MX 53727

CERA Frederick James Bussey M35607

CERA Bernard Henry George Robinson D/MX 45757

ERA1 Henry John Palmer M34530

ERA3 Arnold Woodhead D/MX 53319

ERA3 Harold Hodson C/MX 50784

SPO Stanley Ronald Bridge C/KX 76171

SPO Charles McKinstry K65391

L/Sto Sydney Ellis P/KX 83876

L/Sto Ronald Campbell Crump P/KX 86160

L/Sto Henry Wrennall C/KX 83894

L/Sto William Frederick James Paulyn C/KX 83325

L/Sto Albert Arthur Wright C/KX 87305

L/Sto Frederick Adolphus Stinton O/N D/KX 84208

L/Sto Victor Frank Taylor D/KX 81049

L/Sto Henry John Hayward D/KX 80582

Sto1 Albert BarrassD/KX 86563

Sto1 Cyril Anthony Lewis Abbott D/KX 88637

Sto1 William Smith D/KX 90629

Sto1 Frederick James Phillips D/KX 88550

Sto1 Charles Gregory D/KX 85589

Sto1 Norman Holrovd D/KX 86559

Sto1 Robert Thornton D/KX 89657

Submarine HMS TRIAD

On 15th October 1940, the Italian submarine ENRICO TOTO (C.C. Bandino Bandini) encountered a HMS TRIAD in position 38°16'N, 17°37'E. The Submarines passed at close range on opposite courses as the Italian submarine engaged with machine gun fire and three rounds of 4" from her deck gun - claiming two direct hits. HMS TRIAD fired back scoring a hit on the conning tower of TOTI but this caused only slight damage and wounded two sailors. TRIAD's torpedo missed the Italian submarine by a few yards. TRIAD pulled away and dived but TOTI had fired a torpedo which made a direct hit. TRIAD was flost with all hands.' Those lost were:

Officers:

Lieutenant Commander George Stevenson Salt, RN

Lieutenant Martin Keith-Roache, DSC, RN

Sub Lieutenant Herbert Dean, RN

Lieutenant Lionel James Brown, RNR

Lieutenant (E) William Edmund Collinge, DSC RN

Ratings:

CPO Frank Walter Johnson C/JX 128624

PO Charles Horace White, DSM J101818

PO Percy Morgan P/JX 113202

PO William Ernest Dunford J107529

PO Edward Dunlop D/JX 131180

L/Sea Leonard Maurice Blondel P/JX 137444

L/Sea Albert Victor Ford P/JX 140903

L/Sea Walter Ernest Simcox C/JX 138265

L/Sea Albert Phillip Bradshaw C/JX 139810

L/Sea George Baker Cullingford C/JX 140353

L/Sea John Horace Gordon Jones C/JX 166510

L/Sea Thomas Alexander Clifton Anderson, MiD D/JX

AB Albert Frederick Frank Jonsson D/JX 147064

AB Thomas William Hume P/JX 141266

AB Cecil Albert Frank Harris P/JX 134110

AB Edward Joseph Dunn C/SSX 15824

AB Ordinary Seaman William Barlas D/JX 176316

PO Tel John William Andrews, DSM C/JX 132482

L/Tel Frank Ernest John Morris P/JX 145364

L/Tel Cyril Thomas Westbrook P/JX 137776

Tel William Richard Williams, MiD C/JX 140208

Tel Jack Eccles P/JX 151868

L/Sig Harry Malcolm Sydney Wood P/JX 131816

EA Arthur Edney, DSM P/MX 47220

L/Cook Charles Henry Edden M38715

L/Std James Appleby D/LX 21374

Std George Alfred Shelley C/LX 23743

CERA John Gibson Buchanan, DSM M21997

CERA Alfred Edward Hayward, MiD, D/MX 46535

ERA2 Henry Guy C/MX 49874

ERA3 Thomas Hardy D/MX 51874

ERA4 William Albert Charles Dunstane P/MX 58294

SPO Sidney Thomas Bevan K66988

SPO Thomas Henry Porteous, DSM D/KX 76525

SPO Wilfred Skinner P/KX 75150

L/Sto Albert Edward Whitebread K59163

L/Sto William Ronald Thompson C/KX 84363

L/Sto Ronald Harry Hurford Robbins C/KC 86676

L/Sto Jack Rufus Smith C/KX 84445

L/Sto David John Howells D/KX 84927

Sto1 Robert Horton D/KX 84927

Sto1 John Mathieson Fleming Ingram C/KX 90220

Sto1 William Stanley Thomas C/KX 91768

Sto1 Class Frank Ernest Giles P/KX 93071

Sto1 Leonard Thomas Gooch P/KX 93122

Sto1 Isaac Rickerby P/KX 84885

Sto1 Kenneth William Bettison P/KX 89095

Sto1 Jack Marshall Evans P/KX 85559

Submarine H49

On 17th October 1940 HMS H49 (Lt. Richard Evelyn Coltart, DSC, RN) sailed from Harwich with orders to patrol off Texel, on the Dutch coast.

On the following day, to the west of Texel in the the Netherlands by H49 was depth charged by the German auxiliary submarine chasers UJ-116 and UJ-118. One survivor was picked up. He was L/Sto George William Oliver D/KX 77876, but the other 26 members of the crew were lost. Those lost were:

Officers

Lieutenant Richard Evelyn Coltart, DSC, RN

Lieutenant Claude Hamilton Peterkin, DSC, RN Sub Lieutenant Adrian Carew-Hunt, RN

Sub Lieutenant Lionel Humphrey Lucas Dearden, RNR

Ratings:

CPO James Henry Davidson, DSM J108151

PO Ernest William Feary J114958

L/Sea Frederick George Hills, MiD J95282

AB Frederick George Coleman P/JX 129345

AB Charles William Edmonds J108349

AB Henry Thomas Backwell Hobbs O/N J73247

AB Stewart Nichol McKay P/SSX 16985

AB Robert Stevens C/JX 138854 (Ch)

AB Clifford William White C/JX 150050

L/Tel Ernest James Caie, MiD J72837

Tel John Hull O/N P/JX 142391

Tel Thomas James Gasser P/JX 150266

L/Sig Augustus Chamber Knowles J105998

CERA Artificer William Arthur Cotton, DSM M37090

ERA2 Ronald Victor Cripps, MiD P/MX 45268

ERA3 Jack Amery P/MX 53237

A/SPO Alexander Boyles P/MX 53237

L/Sto Ernest Francis West D/KX 76755

Sto1 Donald Herrett P/KX 91849

Sto1 Patrick James Soar D/KX 89148

Sto1 William Frederick Goffe-Wood K65995

Sto1 Frank Deacon Simpson P/KX 84889

Also, one member of the crew of Submarine HMS THUNDERBOLT (ex HMS THETIS) died on Thursday 1st October 1940. The full circumstances of his death are not established but it is reported that he died in an incident at the end of the repair work after the recovery of HMS THETIS and nine days before the Submarine was due to join the 2nd Submarine Flotilla based on HMS FORTH at the Holy Loch for a Work Up. He was:

Sto1 Joseph McKee D/KX 79944

Joseph McKee was the twenty-eight year old son of Joseph and Annie McKee and the husband of Edith McKee of Rich Hill. He was buried in the Kilmore (St. Aidnan) Church of England Cemetery, County Armagh, Northern Ireland in Grave No. 73

LADY SPONSOR OF HMS ASTUTE VISITS HM NAVAL BASE CLYDE

ROYAL NAVY MEDIA RELEASE Thursday, 10 September 2020

HER Royal Highness, The Duchess of Rothesay, visited HM Naval Base Clyde today (Thursday, September 10) to meet with the Commanding Officer and some of the crew of HMS ASTUTE.

The visit marks the tenth anniversary of the submarine's commissioning back in 2010. As the Lady Sponsor of the 'Astute' Class Submarine, Her Royal Highness also attended the commissioning at Faslane and visited again in 2014 when the submarine returned from her first operational deployment.

On her arrival at the Naval Base, Her Royal Highness met with the boat's Commanding Officer, Commander David Crosby, who provided an operational update on HMS ASTUTE before accompanying Her Royal Highness to the Naval Base's giant Shiplift facility where the submarine is undergoing a period of planned maintenance.

Once inside the Shiplift, Her Royal Highness took a moment to address the Ship's Company, thanking them for their ongoing dedication and commitment, which is key to providing the UK with remarkable security at sea to protect our nation's interests.

Her Royal Highness also passed on her thanks to the families of the submariners for their ongoing support and finished off by saying: "as we look forward to the next ten years of ASTUTE's service, please know that, wherever you may be, I will be holding you all in my thoughts and prayers.

"I am certain that, just as you have always done, you will continue to carry out your duties with the pride that comes of being at the forefront of our Naval prowess. May you always return safely to harbour."

Commander David Crosby, the Commanding Officer of HMS ASTUTE said: "It is a great honour for me to show our Lady Sponsor her submarine and update Her Royal Highness on the recent challenges and successes of her crew and their families.

"HMS ASTUTE, as the first of class, has been at the forefront of delivering the extremely capable 'Astute'

Class submarines into the Fleet for over a decade and I am delighted to have had the opportunity to discuss with Her Royal Highness our next operational period.

"Her Royal Highness, as our Lady Sponsor, has always paid close attention to our progress and regularly sends her gratitude to my crew, and as importantly, their families; to that end, it was a great honour to be granted this opportunity for my team to show their appreciation of her support".

Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions, Her Royal Highness was unable to meet with the families of the submariners during this visit; however she did take a few minutes to present – at a suitable distance - some special awards to a couple of HMS ASTUTE crew members.

The first was the Admiral Max Horton Award which is awarded to the Best Warfare Officer during the Basic Submarine Qualification (BSQ). The Duchess presented the award to Lieutenant Craig Barrie, for completing his BSQ to an extremely high standard in parallel with quickly qualifying as a Control Room Watchkeeper and Junior Warfare Officer.

Next to get his award was Lieutenant James Montgomery, who received the Beaufort-Wharton Testimonial Award for achieving the highest marks in the Initial Warfare course at HMS COLLINGWOOD during Warfare Officer Phase 2 Training.

HMS ASTUTE, the first of Class in the Royal Navy's most advanced fleet of attack submarines is based at HM Naval Base Clyde, the Home of the Submarine Service. Also based at Clyde are her three sister boats, HMS AMBUSH, HMS ARTFUL and HMS AUDACIOUS, with a further three boats — named ANSON, AGAMEMNON and AGINCOURT — currently under construction at BAE Systems in Barrow.

The 'Astute'-class submarines are the largest, most advanced and most powerful attack submarines ever operated by the Royal Navy, combining world-leading sensors, design and weaponry in a versatile vessel.

The full speech delivered by the Duchess during the visit is as follows:

"Commander Crosby, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Ratings,

As the very proud Sponsor of H.M.S. ASTUTE, I am delighted to be with you today to mark the tenth anniversary of the Commissioning ceremony. I remember so well the 27th August 2010, as we watched this magnificent boat enter into active service. On that day, I half-jokingly wondered if I would ever join you for a dive. While that has not yet proved possible – (somewhat to my relief!) – I have taken an enormous interest in your work over the past decade. As 'first of class and best of class', you have covered more than 19,000 nautical miles, operating in some of the most diverse and challenging areas of the globe.

Your remarkable achievements bring to mind some wise words of Sir Winston Churchill, which are particularly resonant following this year's V.E. and V.J. Day celebrations. Speaking of the Submarine Service during the Second World War, Churchill said:

"Of all the branches of men in the forces, there is none which shows more devotion and faces grimmer perils than the submariners. Great deeds are done in the air and on the land; nevertheless, nothing surpasses your exploits."

Churchill knew of what he spoke: he had been First Lord of the Admiralty at the outbreak of the First World War. It was he who insisted that submarines be named, rather than numbered. He intended this as a sign of respect to those in the silent service, who protect our nation unseen and, too often, un-appreciated. To me, the name 'ASTUTE' is an apt one. It of course reminds us of the submarine's predecessor. But it also highlights the shrewdness with which you consistently grasp and take advantage of the situations you encounter under the water. Your ability to do so has rendered this country deeply in your debt, and I should like to thank you from the bottom of my heart. I am only sorry that today I am unable to shake each of you by the hand to express my gratitude, but sadly that will have to wait until the Covid restrictions have lifted.

We are equally in debt to your families, who steadfastly keep the home fires burning, while sharing the stresses and strains endured by all those on board. Please tell them, from me, how much I admire their loyalty, stoicism and support.

And now, as we look forward to the next ten years of ASTUTE's service, please know that, wherever you may be, I will be holding you all in my thoughts and prayers. I am certain that, just as you have always done, you will continue to carry out your duties with the pride that comes of being at the forefront of our Naval prowess. May you always return safely to harbour. Thank you.



HRH The Duchess of Rothesay arrives at HM Naval Base Clyde.



Submariners hear the Duchess' speech inside the Shiplift.



The Duchess addresses crew members from Royal Navy Submarine HMS ASTUTE within the Naval Base's Shiplift facility.



Lieutenant Barrie who received the Admiral Max Horton Award from HRH.



Lieutenant Montgomery awarded the Beaufort-Wharton Testimonial Award.



The Duchess with Commander Crosby, the Commanding Officer of HMS Astute

Spearfish MOD 1 due to have final tests at BUTEC later this year before being declared operational and delivered to the submarine fleet.

15th September 2020

The 'World's Most Advanced Torpedo' Close To Entering Service With Royal Navy

The torpedo will be introduced over the next three years and is expected to be in service until the 2050s.

The "world's most advanced torpedo" is almost ready for service with the Royal Navy after extensive trials in Scotland.

The Spearfish - which has been British submarines' weapon of choice since the early 1990s - is undergoing a £270m upgrade which includes a new warhead, safer fuel system and an enhanced electronic "brain".

Around 100 engineers and experts from BAE Systems in Portsmouth have spent nearly six years improving the torpedo, the Navy said.

During its penultimate trial, it was "fired" repeatedly at frigate HMS Sutherland as scientists, engineers and sailors studied its performance.

The trial took place over four days on special ranges near Kyle of Lochalsh which is 10km long, 6km wide, up to 200 metres deep and peppered with state-of-the-art sensors.

The torpedo's software and hardware enhancements were tested, while Plymouth-based HMS Sutherland did its best to fend off the weapon's attacks, using a mix of evasive manoeuvres and advanced acoustic countermeasures to lure it away.

Spearfish was set to "run deep" for safety reasons, so the "battle" was played out on the displays in HMS Sutherland's operations room, where the shrill sound of whistles announced a torpedo in the water.

The Navy said the warhead is six times more powerful than that carried by the smaller Sting Ray torpedo, fired by ships such as Sutherland or launched from Merlin and Wildcat helicopters.

HMS Sutherland took part in the trials at the British Underwater Test and Evaluation Centre in Scotland.

Some of us probably remember the original Spearfish Torpedo Trials in the 1980s. As ever with new equipment there were Proving Trials, Contact Acceptance Trials (CATs), a 'Get Well Programme and then the Fleet Weapon Acceptance Trials (FWATs) at BUTEC and AUTEC.

BOMB DISPOSAL TEAM WELCOMES NEW COMMANDING OFFICER

ROYAL NAVY Media Release Monday, 7 September 2020 Northern Diving Group, the Royal Navy's team of bomb disposal experts based in Scotland, have a new Commanding Officer with the arrival of Lieutenant Commander Mark Shaw. In a socially distanced ceremony on September 2, Northern Diving Group bid farewell to outgoing Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander Chris Stephenson, who has been in the post since August 2018.

During his two years in charge of the Group, Chris oversaw some 164 tasks by the team, including 255 operational dives and the disposal of almost 4,000 items of explosive ordnance.

Assuming command, Lieutenant Commander Shaw said; "It is a career highlight to be given command of Northern Diving Group. It has a long and respected history and I'm humbled to be responsible for protecting that reputation as we move forward."

The Clyde-based Group is responsible for providing military aid to civil authorities in the form of Explosive Ordnance Disposal throughout Scotland and Northern England. The team also support the Royal Navy's ships and submarines with in-water maintenance and engineering.

The Group also supported HMS PRINCE OF WALES during her visit to Liverpool earlier this year and have been deployed oversees to Canada, Norway and Sri Lanka.

Lieutenant Commander Stephenson will now transfer to Portsmouth where he will manage the careers of officers in the Mine Clearance Diving Branch.

On departing he said: "It has been a privilege and honour to serve as Commanding Officer to a group of highly professional and motivate divers who have never failed to deliver during a period of high-tempo operations."

Sent by: Royal Navy Media & Comms, HM Naval Base Clyde, T: 01436 677205.



L-R: Outgoing Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander Chris Stephenson, hands over to Lieutenant Commander Mark Shaw.

THE DESMOND GERRISH AUTOBIOGRAPHY

(Continued from the September issue of Periscope View)

The 1959 Long T.A.S. Course

We were 22 in number, 3 were Officers from the Australian Navy and all of us were Lieutenants. John Caughey was from my own year as Upper Yardmen. We had all come from different ships throughout the Navy, but soon welded together for this 15-month elite Course. Shortly after starting work at VERNON, we gave a spate of private parties amongst ourselves, in our own homes, to get to know the 'Course Wives' – we hardly met any at Greenwich, since very few had moved house there and the men would dash home to the Portsmouth area every weekend. Hazel laid on our party as a Drinks and Buffet Supper Evening, which meant a crowded house that night. One of our characters was the Hon. Barry Gibson – delightfully vague (thick?) and in line to inherit his father's Earldom. He spent the first part of the evening repeatedly (and repeatedly forgetting) everyone what was Desmond's wife's name – always in a loud voice! Finally, we made the ground move and swept over to Hazel announcing, "Heather, how delightful to meet you and what a superb evening you've laid on for us". We learned as a group to issue a loud groan in unison on the many times that Barry made his faux pas over the next 12 months.

Our Course Tutor was Nigel Phillips, a qualified T.A.S. Officer, presently a Lt. Cdr. and hopeful of promotion to Commander if he steered us to successful qualification. The Captain of H.M.S. VERNON was Morgan-Giles, another T.A.S. Specialist, who would be promoted to Admiral in due course and, once retired from the R.N., became the M.P. for Winchester. He was a good bloke and we all got on with him.

The quality of teaching was superb. All done by T.A.S. Officers, who were the top of their tree in their sub-specialist departments – Sonar, Torpedoes, Mines, Diving, Anti-Submarine Weapons, Demolitions, Aircraft Anti-Sub. and Submarines themselves. A lot of the tuition was practical. Back to Portland for 6 weeks, where we were given control of the same Frigate Squadron I'd just left, to practice screening Convoys against Sub. attack and carry out multi-frigate attacks on submarines whenever we detected them in our Sonars. We went flying in Shackletons from R.A.F. airfields, searching for submarines our in the Atlantic, assembled torpedoes in VERNON's worksheds loaded them into submarines at H.M.S. DOLPHIN and went out into The Channel to fire them underneath Target Ships.

The Course went to H.M.S. SEA EAGLE in 'Derry for 5 weeks advanced Anti-Submarine Warfare. Hazel and Baby Sue came over to stay with Hazel's parents. The weather in the North Atlantic outside 'Derry was just as terrible as my M.L. days. For a 5-day Exercise we had control of 8 destroyers, 12 maritime aircraft and a squadron of land-based helicopters. Four submarines were dotted about an immense sea area and our job was to find them and dummy attack them. The gale blew for the entire 5 days and several destroyers suffered superficial damage as we drove them at speed once a submarine was detected – you had to, to stop him from making high speed bursts to escape our hunt. A sailor was badly injured in the destroyer I was in and the ship's young Doc. asked for one of us to visit him in the Sick Bay. Another of our Course, Richard Todd, was aboard too and immediately volunteered. Richard fainted 3 times in the Sick Bay before the Doc. Finally said he had acquired another assistant, thank you! So much for us killer T.A.S.-men!

There was a lull in the action which allowed me to get in some sleep on a camp bed in the destroyer's Wardroom. I awoke, when the ship's piano broke its rough-weather ropes and came hurtling towards me, just in time to jump out of the way as it smashed into the bulkhead. I resolved then that the way to kill enemy submarines was in Hunter Submarines, rather than these battered Surface Forces. Which is what happened in the years to come; Surface Forces are no match to the well-handled submarine deep below you. We had a good 5 weeks operating from SEA EAGLE and went out in the submarines and maritime aircraft as well as in the destroyers and frigates, throughout the many fast-moving Exercises taking place all the time in the North Atlantic.

Before going over to SEA EAGLE Hazel's father, Sam Dowds, visited us in Gosport, chiefly to see his new granddaughter, Sue. I can't remember why Granny Dowds didn't come, but it must have been to stay looking after her elderly mother living with them in Deanfield. During the few days Sam stayed with us, he was invited to lunch with the Rear Admiral of The Reserve Fleet, an old friend of his from 'Derry days, in the battleship, H.M.S. VANGUARD, now in Reserve. The Admiral told Sam to bring me along as well. This gave me a lot of kudos that day, as I was collected in the Admiral's Launch at Vernon's jetty, telling the other 21 Course Members I night be late for lessons after lunch, but if anyone wanted me, I was lunching with the Admiral in H.M.S. VANGUARD! Thank heavens Sam had come over, to carry Sue around and get to know her, because, dreadful tragedy, shortly after his visit to us, Sam died of a heart attack, peaceably, in his armchair in his house, Deanfield, on 14th August 1959.

I was on Summer Leave. We didn't have a telephone. Someone in 'Derry knew to contact H.M.S. VERNON That evening, a Police car called with the sad news – the Duty Staff Officer in VERNON had sent the Gosport Police to pass the message to us. We used a neighbour's 'phone to contact Hazel's mother and learnt a cabin had been reserved for us on the ferry – Liverpool to Belfast – for tomorrow night's crossing. Frantic packing and off we drove in our little van just in time to catch the ferry. Van was parked in ferry's car park – only foot passengers in those days. We were met by friends in Belfast who drove us to 'Derry, Sylvia, Douglas and their newborn, Alan, had arrived ahead of us, from Edinburgh. Sent Evie, having left us, arrived from London, as did her 2 daughters, Marjory and Pat. Sam's sister, Aunty

Cicely, came from Dublin. Sam's brother, Bertie, black sheep of the family in the past, asked if he could come to the Funeral and arrived from Ebbw Vale in the Welsh Valleys. The Family had gathered.

The Funeral was attended by large numbers of Ulster people. Sam was very important in Ulster political life. As Mayor of 'Derry, he had been instrumental in assisting the U.S. giant, DuPont, to set up its most modern chemical factory yet, in Londonderry, bringing all those skilled and well-paid jobs to Ulster. He was Chairman of the Ulster Tourist Board and many similar organisations. Above all, he was extremely popular to all political parties in Ulster. Hazel and Sylvia agreed that 'Dolly should continue to live in the large house, Deanfield, since the family maid, Celia, still lived in and the parttime gardener would look after the garden. 'Dolly - Granny Dowds to use - was keen to keep the big house going, so there was always plenty of room to accommodate the Girvan family and ourselves whenever we visited at holiday times. A bit earlier on in that 2-week Summer Leave, Hazel and I had bought a house. It was No.1 Ellachie Gardens, in Alverstoke – the posh part of Gosport. Timing was brilliant, since the Royal Navy was reducing its size dramatically and offered its surplus Officers generous redundancy terms for retiring early - nicknamed the Golden Bowler. So, almost every other house in Alverstoke - Officer territory - was up for sale. No.1 was owned by a Navy Dentist who had opted for redundancy and was desperate to sell before taking up his civilian job in Bristol. It was the top of the shortlist of houses we had seen, but perhaps a bit too ambitious as a first house for us young newly-weds with infant Sue to bring up. The Agent left his deck chair on Stokes Bay on that sunny Saturday afternoon, saying it would not do to wait until office hours on Monday and that he would take us to see the inside of the house and introduce us to the owners right now! So we met and saw. By Sunday afternoon me and Hazel decided to make an offer. We were welcomed by Dentist and wife. Hazel did another look around the house with Mrs. Dentist, while me and him imbibed gin and tonics and chatted about

He said, (we were two good Navy friends at this stage) "What can you offer?" I picked a figure which was the total sum of our savings to date – it was £2,450. He said, "Why not. We know each other Navy-wise, I would rather sell to you and Hazel rather than keep waiting for a sale through the Agent, who has been trying to sell for over 6 months anyway. We accept!" And that was the happy conclusion.

common acquaintances in the Navy! Our pleasant interlude ended as the two women joined us in the lounge, both asking if we had struck a deal! The Girls had been leaving us two men alone thinking we were negotiating a purchase. To placate the two wives, I said to him, "We love the house; it's worth more than we can offer at our early stage in life".

Faced with furnishing a large 4-bedroom house, we decided to hold back half our savings and raised the other half of the house price with a Halifax mortgage. The Dentist and family left with relief to his new job and home in Bristol and we moved in a few weeks later

Hazel was now a busy house owner – housewife who quickly made the house quite comfortable for the 3 of us. – albeit that 2 of the bedrooms were left initially without a stick of furniture – they and other rooms surplus to our immediate requirements – could wait. The pleasant garden took some of our initial time too. During the working weeks, me full-time at VERNON, Hazel, with Sue in tow, would scour the second hand shops of Gosport looking for all the furniture we needed and on Saturdays, when I was available, the 3 of us would make final purchases. Hazel had an eye for good bargains and the selling shops would often say to me when we made a 'buy' that Hazel was a very hard woman to bargain with! We still have (1997) a good number of furniture pieces bought in our earliest days. Right from the start we found No.1 was a 'friendly' house to live in – its construction, layout, garden and very peaceful situation, with just 5 houses spread around a circle at the end of a cul-de-sac. As the weeks went by, we completed furnishing the entire house and, during our time at Vernon, the following stayed with us: Douglas, Silvia and Alan; Roy; Aunty Evie frequently; my Mother; Jane: Chris; Hazel's Mother; Jeanette; Shirley (a friend of Hazel's).

It was an attractive spot for holiday visitors, with unspoilt Stokes Bay looking across the Solent to Ryde in the Isle of Weight, just round the corner from No.1. And they all loved Hazels' cooking too!!

END OF A VERY LONG SERVICE



HMS HERMES/INS VIRAAT

INS VIRAAT (ex HMS HERMES) was towed from Mumbai on 19th October 2020 on her final journey to the Alang Shipbreaking Yard in Gujarat to be 'broken up'. As a 'Barrow Built' ship she was laid down by Vickers-Armstrong at Barrow-in-Furness during World War II as HMS ELEPHANT. Construction was suspended in 1945 but work was resumed in 1952 to clear the slipway and the hull was launched on 16th February 1953. The vessel remained unfinished until 1957 and then entered service with the Royal Navy on 18th November 1959 as HMS HERMES.

HMS HERMES served as the 'Task Force' Flag Ship during the Falklands War of 1982 and was the Flag Ship of Admiral Sir Sandy Woodward who was, later, Flag Officer Submarines.

Afterwards the returning to UK from the Falklands HMS HERMES continued in service with the Royal Navy until 1984 when she was 'decommissioned'. A proposed sale to Australia fell through and the ship was later sold to the Indian Government. Following an extensive refit in Devonport Dockyard the former HMS HERMES sailed for India in 1987 where she served in the Indian Navy until 2017. Various campaigns to save the HERMES/VIRAAT as a Museum ship failed resulting in the ship eventually being sold for scrap. Her longevity – over 75 years from being 'Laid Down' - is a testament to the quality and workmanship of Barrow Ship Builders!

SUBMARINERS 'CROSSED THE BAR' REPORTED UP TO 30th SEPTEMBER 2020								
Branch	Date	Name	Rank/Rate	O/N	Age	Submarine Service		
Ex Hull & East Yorkshire Branch	22nd August 2020	Peter Inchcliffe	Marine Engineering Mechanic 1st Class	D096155F	69	Submarine Service from 1972 to 1974 in PORPOISE (1972 to 1974)		
Ex Derby Branch	29th August 2020	Robert C Cliff	Leading Mechanical Engineer	P/K 970401	80	Submarine Service from 1959 to 1967 in TRESPASSER (1960 to 1961), ALDERNEY (1962 to 1963), OTUS (1963 to 1964), ODIN (1964 to 1965) & THERMOPYLAE (on commissioning at Portsmouth on 31st July 1965)		
Non-member	1st September 2020	John Todd	Charge Chief Weapons Electrical Artificer	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service from 19** to 19** in SEALION, REPULSE (P) (on commissioning 1972) & UNSEEN (on Commissioning on 7th June 1991)		
Non-member	2 nd September 2020	Alan McCullough	Chief Petty Officer WEM (O) – Torpedo Instructor	TBA	71	Submarine Service from June 1969 to January 1989 in NARWHAL (11th October 1972 to 10th October 1973), PLATYPUS (11th November 1974 to 18th November 1975), OSIRIS (19th November 1975 to 30th July 1978), RESOLUTION (S) 5th April 1979 to 2nd May 1982), CONQUEROR (16th January 1984 to 8th January 1987) & DOLPHIN School (9th January 1987 to 11th December 1988)		
Essex Branch	4th September 2020	Mick Rowe	Sub Lieutenant (Ex UW)	P/JX 658917	80	Submarine Service from 1955 to 1961 in SENTINEL, SEALION, THULE & SCORCHER		
Colchester Branch	11th September 2020	Peter A Lever	Able Seaman (UW3)	P/J947262	83	Submarine Service from 1954 to 1966 in ALCIDE (1960 to 1962), AMBUSH (1962 to 1963), ANDREW (1963 to 1964) & ALLIANCE (1964 to 1965)		
Non-member	12 th September 2020	Mark Forster	Cook	TBA	54	Submarine Service from 1984 to May 1991 in REPULSE & WARSPITE		
Espana Levante Branch	12th September 2020	Andrew D Clarkson	Leading Radio Operator	D051641K	78	Submarine Service from 1963 to 1975 in ORPHEUS, AURIGA (1970 to 1971), AENEAS (1971 to 1972), OBERON (1972 to 1973), ODIN (1973 to 1975) & ORACLE (1975)		
We Remember Submariners	September 2020	Richard Moxam	TBA	TBA	67	Submarine Service TBA		
Ex Welsh Branch	September 2020	Patrick Fawcett	LEM	P/SMX 834209	91	Submarine Service from July 1951 to July 1954 in TRESPASSER, ASTUTE & TUDOR.		