

# 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: 249 www.submarinersassociation.co.uk April 2021



# **INDEX**

Editorial	Page 2 & 3
Secretary Report	Page 3
Social Secretary's Report	Page 3
Articles	Page 4 to 6
WWII Submarine Losses	Page 6
RNRMC & Submarine Fund	Pages 7
Desmond Gerrish Biography (continued)	Pages 8 & 9
Articles	Pages 9 to 12
Crossed the Bar	Pages 13 & 14

# BARROW 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 alexjan1516@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 <u>Dave.oakes@btinternet.com</u>

# Cover Picture: HMS TRENCHANT on her way to Devonport to Pay Off

'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,

Very little for me to report this month. Most of my time has been taken up with the preparations for the National Council Conference and the actual Conference which took place on Zoom last Saturday. We had two years' worth of business to do because, as you all know, last year's National Council Conference and Reunion had to be cancelled at short notice.

Dave Smith gives a comprehensive report in his Secretary's Dit on what was decided so I will just cover the conduct of the Conference itself. I was a bit concerned beforehand as, although I was usually pretty comfortable in addressing the Branch when I was your Branch Secretary, all the Branch Meetings were face to face meetings. The Zoom meetings are a bit more difficult as all the time you are having to scan the faces on the screen and keep looking for the 'little yellow hand' waving if someone wishes to speak. Also, not everyone was able to be shown on the same screen at the same time so there was a bit of shuffling between screens. The Zoom arrangements had been set up by the National Secretary (Ian Vickers) and seemed to work ok. However, I wouldn't want to run the Conference like that on a regular basis. There is now quite a lot of work to be done at National level to implement the decisions taken and update the paperwork.

One of the biggest things the National Committee is dealing with at the moment is the ongoing discussions around the Submarine Family and the Submarine Fund. As well as the 'Serving Submariners' these discussions involve us as the Submariners Association, the Friends of the Submarine Museum and the We Remember Submariners organisations. Not surprisingly each organisation has a different view of how the Family and the Fund will affect them. As far as the Submariners Association is concerned this is possibly the biggest thing we have had to deal with since the Submarine Old Comrades Association 'morphed' into the submariners Association over twenty years ago and we need to get it right.

I hope that most of the Branch Members and you nearest and dearest have now been called in for your first Covid jab and have already started off on the second jab plan. Luckily, Margaret and I have both now been second jabbed. The teams at the Alfred Barrow Centre seem to be most efficient – talking to one of their volunteers last night he said that last Saturday they had managed to get through some 1,800 vaccinations.

Alex has now produced a Social Calendar for this year – it is all dependant on the current restrictions being eased so we must all keep our fingers crossed.

In the meantime take it steady everyone and, as I said last month – hopefully, it won't be too long now

before we can all get back to normal, hold Branch Meetings, have our Socials and other events, forget about masks, social-distancing and staying indoors – but at least we are now allowed to meet a few more people –

even if it as to be outside and can still go out for walks, exercise and shopping!

Best Regards,

**Barrie** 

#### SECRETARY'S DIT

#### Hello All

On Saturday 27th March I attended the SA AGM Conference, via Zoom. I will not punish you by going through the whole two and a half hours of conversation and debate but will provide a summary of the meeting. I am sure that Barrie will give a more detailed appraisal in his monthly newsletter. On the subject of Barrie, he did a sterling job chairing and controlling the meeting for his first National Conference, well done Barrie. Thirty-one of the fifty branches had delegates in attendance with a further nine NMC members, VPs, and guest speakers. Of course, we were all appropriately dressed in a shirt and tie. I couldn't see all the delegates, but no comments were made with regards to the lower dress code when we were asked to stand for the minute's silence for those who had Crossed the Bar. No PJs or colourful tropical shorts etc. were mentioned.

A protocol had been issued and briefing was given on how to conduct the meeting (remain on mute unless speaking and raise a hand (electronically) should you wish to speak. All voting was done on the screen which provided visual results and record.

Having completed the usual preamble of roll call, apologies, Cross the Bar, President's address, Minutes, Actions etc. we got to the main part of the business of Proposals and Recommendations.

The only highlights from the Committee Officers Reports are, Andy Bain was ratified as Treasurer, we have 1,574 Association full members with 68 applications in process. A new Association Membership database is being set up and trialled to provide a more user-friendly and accurate listing. This will enables branches to have access to update and amend the master record.

#### Voting

#### **Proposals**

**Proposal 1:** Northern Ireland, summary All proposals should be a straightforward Yes/No/ Abstain. This failed to meet the 2/3 majority - (Yes 60%, No 37%, 3% Abstain) and therefore was a NO.

Proposal 2: Australia. Enable Branch Ballot Papers to be forwarded by email. This was agreed - (Yes 96%, Abstain 4%).

Proposal 3: Norfolk. Facilitate proxy voting. This was agreed - (Yes 71, No 29). YES

**Proposal 4:** Barrow. Branches to be consulted when spending Association funds beyond defined limits. This was agreed - (Yes 68%, No 32%) YES.

**Proposal 5:** Scottish Full membership for Dutch Submariner who is an associate member and has fulfilled an essential and important role within the branch for several years. This was not agreed - (Yes 32%, No 64%, Abstain 7%). NO.

**Proposal 6:** Gosport. Proportion representation for Association voting. This was withdrawn. The NMC was requested to look at adopting modern technology and methods so that every paying member can have a say on Association business. No vote was taken.

**Proposal 7:** Sunderland. The Seconder Branch was not present. However, the Gosport Branch stepped in so the proposal could go forward. The nominal sum of 150 pounds to be donated from National Funds to each Branch for this year only to assist with Branch expenditure. This was not agreed - (Yes 29%, No 71%). NO.

#### **Recommendations:**

Each Recommendation was read out and a Proposer and Seconder from the Branches was requested for them to go forward as Proposals and voted on.

Recommendation 1: Was withdrawn. More information required.

Recommendation 2: Reduction of Life Membership age from 90 to 85. This was agreed - (Yes 92%). YES.

**Recommendation 3:** Dissolution of Association and transfer of National Funds to the Submarine Fund (RNRMC). This was agreed - (Yes 100%).

**Recommendation 4:** National Committee Standing Orders. Nomination of SA Representative on the Submarine Family Working Group and text changes of the R&C. This was agreed - (Yes 100%). YES.

There were two guest speakers who gave briefings on the following:

# a. Arboretum Memorial, Tom Herman:

Tom outlined the process that had been adopted to come to the final design and designer for the new memorial. This included the setting up of the charity, the personnel and partners involved and a selection process overview. He stated that 370K is required and about 150K has been raised so far. The remainder will have to be achieved through various fund-raising events, people funding and Submarine Industrial Partners. It is hoped that most of the funds can be obtained by the end of this year so that construction and installation go ahead with completion by the third quarter of next year.

b. Submarine Service and Family, Commodore Jim Perks:

COSM gave a brief overview of the situation and operations of the Submarine Service. Highlighting the additional constraints imposed by COVID. Whilst patrols successfully continued throughout the last year the impact on family life for those serving on board and in support roles has been significant. Quarantine and self-isolation adding several weeks to the patrols and time away from the family. He praised the dedication and fortitude of all those involved. Despite this recruitment was up but that also creates issues with regards to training particularly at-sea training.

He then went on to brief the Conference on the work that has been going on to set up the Submarine Family organisation. This includes the Submariners, We Remember Submariners and Industrial Partners also working in conjunction with the RNRMC who will provide administrative support. It is anticipated that this will provide approximately 120K a year to the Submarine Fund. This will provide financial support to submarine organisations via grants and eventually facilitate free membership.

The Association President (Chuckles) gave a brief but amusing final comment before Barrie closed the meeting and a toast to the SM Service was given.

# Regards

Dave S

#### SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

#### Hello All

I thought that I would officially announce the 2021 Social Programme (to date & dependent on Covid restrictions) to you so that it may be put on our website and disseminated to the membership.

Please be aware that due to circumstances my last coach company is no longer trading and I have been forced to secure a new company. I had a really good deal with the last company so (as expected) this company is more expensive. I will need full support on these functions to guarantee success.

Sat 3rd July Gallon Club/First Footing/Independence Day pub crawl

22 places available, cost £15 per person, dress: Casual/Branch Polo/American.

Depart Ferry at 11am normal pick up points through to Lancaster, meet the Morecambe branch at the Three Mariners and then take it from there. Depart to come home 6pm.

Sat 17th July Cartmel Races/Dickie Cambridge's birthday party.

53 places available, cost £15 per person (transport only), dress smart casual.

Depart Ferry at 12 (looking to bring this earlier to 11am) normal pick up points.

Depart 30 minutes after last race approx 6pm.

Sat 11th September Canal Trip.

46 places available, cost £40 per person (includes, transport, canal trip, food, alcohol; amount dependent on support), dress smart casual.

Depart Ferry at 2pm normal pick up points through to Bilsborrow. Wine and nibblets table, load barge at 6pm, packed lunch, absent friends cocktail, music courtesy of Nikki McKay, depart barge at 10pm.

**Friday 1st October** HMS Upholder meet and greet at the Royal British Legion, Free, dress is either blazer, branch polo or smart casual. 7 - 11pm.

Saturday 18th December Christmas Party, Royal British Legion, dress smart casual, bring a plate, ticket only entry at a cost of £5 per person. Entertainment Denis Horan, raffle, prize giveaway (dependent on support). I hope to see you all there.

Many thanks

Alex

#### APRIL 2021 BRANCH CALENDAR

April Branch Meeting Tues 6th Apr St George's Day Parade Sun 24th Apr ANZAC Memorial Sun 24th Apr Committee Meeting As Required

#### **MAY 2021 BRANCH CALENDAR**

May Branch Meeting

Committee Meeting

As Required

As Required

# **JUNE 2021 BRANCH CALENDAR**

June Branch Meeting Tues 1st June
Committee Meeting As Required

NOTE: All April/May/June Meetings and Events are still subject to cancellation at very short notice and are dependent on further Government advice!

#### **APRIL BRANCH BIRTHDAYS**

T.A. (Tom) Rawbone	02/04/1958
R. (Joe) Cornelius	04/04/1947
J.D. (John) Flower	06/04/1959
D. (Des) Murphy	09/04/1953
R.W (Edward) Anderson	10/04/1956
J.P.H. (John) Fulford	11/04/1959
O. (Axel) Rose	12/04/1995
J. (John) Shipley	16/04/1938

K. (Karl) Allerton	17/04/1971
M (Michael) Corran	17/04/1958
J. (Jamie) Reid	19/04/1985
R. (Richie) Phillips	19/04/1973
J.V. (John) Hart	18/04/1934
S.N. (Steve) May	18/04/1963
G (Gethin) Bermingham	22/04/1958
I. (Ian) Winstanley	28/04/1950
M (Margaret) Hart	28/04/1936

# Happy Birthday All!

# REMEMBERING FORMER BRANCH MEMBERS 'CROSSED THE BAR' - APRIL

CROSSED THE DAK	- AI KIL
Joe Burlison	1984
Leonard Ingram	1984
Harold Carter	1984
Norman Cloke	1985
Mick Terry	1992
James Vince	1997
Tony Mitchell-Knight	2001
Frederick Jordan	2001
Graham Harries	2003
John Dixon	2009

# **RESURGAM**

2017

Donald Wade

#### DISCLAIMER

This Newsletter is published by the Submariners Association (Barrow in Furness) and is © 2021. 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 April for the May 2021 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!

#### **APRIL 1941**

No Submarines were lost in April 1941, but three Submariners are reported to have died. They were:

(1) An Officer on the Books of HMS DOLPHIN who died on Friday 4th April 1941. He was:

# Lieutenant Michael John Priaulx Walters, RN

A submariner since 4th January 1937 he first served in HMS OLYMPUS 'as Navigating Officer' in the 4th Submarine Flotilla in the Far East. On returning home he joined Submarine H31 as the 1st Lieutenant' on 15th May 1940 and on 30th October 1940 he was appointed to HMS SEVERN as the 1st Lieutenant. He completed the 'Commanding Officers Qualifying Course' in 1941. He is reported to have died on 4th Apr 1941 when the SS HARBLEDOWN (Convoy SC 26) was sunk by the U-Boat U-94 whilst taking passage to take up a new appointment. Twenty-six-year-old he was the son of Hubert de Lancey Walters and Gwendoline Walters and the husband of Elizabeth Mary Walters of Regents Park, London. He is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval War Memorial on Panel No. 45 Column No. 2.

(2) One Officer on the Books of HMS DOLPHIN died on Friday 11th April 1941. He was:

# Lieutenant Nigel Larken, RN

Nigel Larken is reported to have died in the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar the result of a perforated gastric ulcer. He was the twenty-two-year-old son of Admiral Frank Larken, KCB, CMG, Royal Navy and Lady Larken (nee Rawson) of Roehampton, London. He is commemorated at the Southampton Crematorium on Panel No 3.

(3) One member of the crew of Submarine P37 (HMS UNBENDING) died on 14th April 1941. He was:

#### CERA 1st Class Harold Jenner DSM O/N M22010

A Submariner since 16th April 1929 'Harry' Jenner had served in Submarines H23, H27, HMS THAMES and H49 before joining H44 on 2nd August 1939. He was drafted ashore to HMS DOLPHIN on 1st January and sent to the Vickers Shipyard at Barrow in Furness to 'Stand By' Submarine P37 (HMS UNBENDING) whilst building. He is reported to have died on 14th May 1941 and was killed during the Barrow Blitz. The 'Trevelyan Hotel' in Dalkeith Street off Abbey Road in which he was stating was demolished by a direct hit. Harry Jenner is buried in the Thorncliffe Cemetery in Barrow in Section 5 (Non-conformist) in Grave No. 159.

This is one of the Submariner graves the Branch marks with a Poppy Cross every November.

# SUBMARINE COMMISSIONING CREW LISTS

Commissioning Crew Lists are still coming in however, things have slowed down a bit of late. I am still looking for 'First Commission' Submarine Crew Lists/Brochures as follows:

#### SUBMARINE LOSSES OF WWII

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

#### **COMMODORE SUBMARINES**

Just to show that there is nothing new in the Submarine Service the following article appeared in the Sheffield Daily Telegraph dated 7th September 1911.

#### The Submarine Service

The raising of the senior officer of the Submarine Branch of the Navy to the dignity of a Commodore has given general satisfaction throughout the Fleet. It is an appropriate, if somewhat belated recognition of the increased importance which the branch now occupies in relation to the other material elements of the Navy. The destroyers and torpedo-boats have had always one and sometimes two Commodores responsible for their proper organisation, and lately a flag officer has been appointed to the new position of Admiral of Patrols, with charge of all torpedo craft other than those attached to battle squadrons or stationed for the local defence of the Naval ports.

Ever since the first submarines were completed ten years ago, the officer in charge of them has been known as the Inspecting Captain, a title which is now to be abolished. In future he will hold the rank of Commodore, and he will be known as the Commodore (S) which makes him equal in rank with the Commodore (D), who is in charge of all destroyers in full commission. He will also be able to fly a broad pennant when at sea for exercises with the submarines.

NOTE: This article was sent in by Branch Member Peter Schofield.

# HMS TANTIVY - A BARROW BUILT BOAT

Coventry Evening Telegraph, Thursday, 10 May 1945 – Post Horn Heralds Subs Return – Sounding a hunting horn HMS Tantivy returned to a home base from Far Eastern waters recently. Instead of the customary Jolly Roger she flies a black flag bearing the mark of a fox over crossed hunting horns. The Tantivy has taken her hunting horn to sea on all her patrols. It was sounded for the first time when she returned to a Far Eastern base after scoring her first torpedo success, a Japanese supply ship. The commanding officer Lt. P. H. May DSC of Monksheaton, Northumberland said 'the hunting horn was present by the builders and the success flag was made and presented to us by Barrow Grammar School for Girls who have unofficially adopted us and have been exceedingly kind to us.'



The Commanding Officer of the TANTIVY, Lieut P H May, DSC, RN (left) with ship's officers under their Jolly Roger of success, a Fox head, with hunting symbols signifying successes against the Japanese. (IWM Collection)

The Coventry item is already on the Barrow Submariners website but not the image.

Barrow Build Data:

Yard Number 819 HMS TANTIVY Pendant Nos. P319 (P99)

Laid Down 4th July 1942 Launched 6th April 1943 Port engine shipped May 1943 Stbd engine shipped 20th May 1943 Docked Down in Floating Dock 30th May 1943 (am) to 10th June 1943 (pm)

Docked Down in Floating Dock 30th June 1943 (am) for propeller work

Trim Dive 2nd July 1943

Docked Down in Floating Dock 3rd July 1943 (pm) to 10th July 1943 (pm) for work on No 3 & No 5 Fuel Tanks

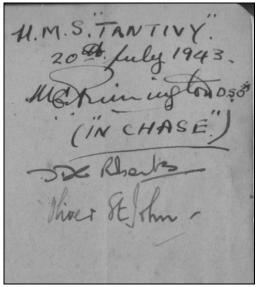
Final Inspection 17th July 1943

Wiping Berth 21st /22nd July 1943

Leave Barrow 23rd July 1943

### HMS TANTIVY Officers on Leaving Barrow were:

Rimington (CO), Roberts (IL), Gedye RNR (3rd Hand), Robert-Williams RNR (Navigator), St John (Engineer)



Signatures of three of the 'build crew' Officers (from the Autograph Album of WE Hammond (a Naval Overseer at Barrow during WWII)



The original wooden maquette of the TANTIVY Ships Badge (also from the WE Hammond Autograph Album)

Peter Schofield also sent the HMS TANTIVY item and posted it on the Barrow Memory Lane Site, linked to the Barrow Girls Grammar School.

#### **POOR MEMORY?**

This is sent just to reassure you! But only if you think you are suffering memory loss!

# Anosognosia

In the following analysis the French Professor Bruno Dubois Director of the Institute of Memory and Alzheimer's Disease (IMMA) at La Pitié-Salpêtrière - Paris Hospitals addresses the subject in a rather reassuring way:

"If anyone is aware of his memory problems, he does not have Alzheimer's."

- 1 I forget the names of families.
- 2 I do not remember where I put some things.

It often happens in people 60 years and older that they complain that they lack memory. "The information is always in the brain, it is the "processor" that is lacking." This is "Anosognosia" or temporary forgetfulness.

Half of people 60 and older have some symptoms that are due to age rather than disease.

The most common cases are:

- 1. forgetting the name of a person,
- 2. going to a room in the house and not remembering why we were going there,
- 3. a blank memory for a movie title or actor, an actress,
- 4. a waste of time searching where we left our glasses or keys:

After 60 years most people have such a difficulty, which indicates that it is not a disease but rather a characteristic due to the passage of years!

Many people are concerned about these oversights hence the importance of the following statement:

"Those who are conscious of being forgetful have no serious problem of memory."

"Those who suffer from a memory illness or Alzheimer's, are not aware of what is happening."

Professor Bruno Dubois, Director of IMMA, reassures the majority of people concerned about their oversights:

"The more we complain about memory loss, the less likely we are to suffer from memory sickness." Now for a little neurological test. Only use your eyes!

Find the C in the table below!

If you have already found the C, then find the 6 in the table below.

Now find the N in the table below. Attention, it is a little more difficult!

If you pass these three tests without problem:

- 1. you can cancel your annual visit to the neurologist.
- 2. your brain is in perfect shape!
- 3. you are far from having any relationship with Alzheimer's.

So, share this with your over-55 friends, it can reassure them

# THE DESMOND GERRISH AUTOBIOGRAPHY

(Continued from the March 2021 issue of Periscope View)

Back in Singapore for a spell in harbour. Then off to the large American Naval Base at Subic Bay, in the Philippines, to do exercises with the U.S.N. I had been given a Midshipman Engineer, who had failed his Seamanship exams. My brief was to get him up to scratch ready for a re-take exam. So, I detailed him, to be O.O.W. on a quiet morning while the Squadron was steaming in Line-ahead en-route for Subic. All he had to do was to follow the Minesweeper ahead, keeping the ordered distance of 200 yards apart. I was in my cabin doing the inevitable paperwork that had piled up in harbour when there were 3 great 'clumps' under the ship's bottom. I was on the bridge in leaps and bounds as the 3<sup>rd</sup> 'clump' occurred near the stern and I saw a huge tree trunk bob to the surface. I whipped 'Wilkie' out of the Line and stopped the engine. I knew what had happened. The South China Sea was littered with waterlogged teak trees which had broken loose from the logger's row of hundreds of trunks being shipped out from the teak forests of Borneo. My Midshipman had failed to see this rogue and steamed right over it. At the subsequent Inquiry he swore he never saw it - maybe he didn't; they floated just below the surface and it takes a keen and experienced eye to see them ahead in time to steer around them. I knew the 3<sup>rd</sup> 'clump' was my propeller striking the log and I knew the propeller was bent from the vibrations before I stopped the engine.

Engineers and divers came over to inspect the damage. The other propeller was undamaged. We were halfway

between Singapore and the Philippines. Warships are always repaired without delay to get back on active service.

It was decided to fit a new propeller in Subic. The R.A.F. had to fly the new prop. from Singapore and the Americans at Subic Base agreed to fit it on our arrival. The Yanks were very efficient. Within 2 hours of my arrival, they had the bent prop. off and the new one on.

We did Minesweeping Exercises with the U.S.N. Squadron, off and on, for 2 weeks, with interludes in harbour for rest and recreation. The American Base at Subic had replaced their main Pacific Base at Pearl Harbour. Consequently, it was no surprise to find that Subic Naval Base was as large as a city.

We came back and visited Subic several times during my Commission and, because R.N. Minesweeping was more advanced that in the U.S.N., they treated us very well.

Out of all these sea-going travels, Hazel and the children only got to Hong Kong and Manila. First time to Hong Kong was when the Squadron was programmed to spend 4 weeks, operating out of Hong Kong, together with the small sized Minesweepers of the Hong Kong Squadron. A great break for us all since the climate in Hong Kong was much fresher than the humidity of Singapore.

The Singapore Naval Movements Office had fixed for Hazel, Sue and Bill to have a free passage in a British Troopship (like passenger Liners – without the glitz!). They arrived the day before the Squadron got to Hong Kong from the Philippines. However, one of the Squadron, H.M.S. FISKERTON, had been sent on ahead for repairs and I told Fisk. C.O. to look after Hazel until we arrived. This was Jeremy Black – later to become C.-in-C. of the Home Fleet – who duly made himself responsible for getting Hazel and kids safely housed in the Y.M.C.A. Club, pre-booked. Gordon Morris, another of our Squadron C.O.s, was assisting Jeremy in discharging this burden and when they found the Club Restaurant closed, tossed a coin – one to baby-sit, the other to take Hazel out for dinner. Gordon baby-sat and Jeremy, showing off, took Hazel to one of the smarter restaurants in Hong Kong for an excellent dinner – his treat! Except when the bill came, he remembered he had no money with him (not unusual for Naval Officers – we expect to sign chits and pay at the end of each month). So, he did what we all do on these occasions outside our Mess and Club chit system and borrowed the money, to pay the bill, from Hazel. He repaid Hazel's vital housekeeping money promptly next morning with a flourish of Hong Kong dollars in full view of the many onlookers waiting at the Boat Jetty in H.M.S. TAMAR. Never occurred to him to be slightly discreet in such a transaction!

Our meagre budget – no allowances – drove me to finding a cheap hotel in Kowloon – the Y.M.C.A. Club, funnily enough, was for girls only – and we stayed a few days in Kowloon, before moving back to Hong Kong Island, to spend our remaining holiday time staying in the Naval H.Q. Flats, up on the Peak as guests of Richard Todd and his wife, Joy. Richard was C.O. of one of the Hong Kong Minesweepers and was on the same Long T.A.S. Course as me, so we all knew each other pretty well from those days.

Richard and Joy were a particularly devoted couple with lovely children. So, it was very tragic, some years later, when we learned that Joy had died in a car crash in England. Richard and the children survived the crash, all injured.

Our time in Hong Kong was very pleasant. Hazel even found time to browse the Aladdin's Cave of Hong Kong's shops, stall, emporiums and stores, while looking after and entertaining Sue (3) and Bill (1) all day long. I enjoyed the stolen time to be with them; usually got 'home' in the evenings during the week and at weekends I was usually free from the ship at lunchtime on Saturdays and mid-morning on Sundays. There were lots of Navy parties throughout, as long as we arranged babysitters – often sailors from 'Wilkie'.

Hazel and the children travelled back to Singapore in the P & O Liner, IBERIA, which called in to Manila enroute as part of the tourist programme. The Squadron returned later, after a visit to Bangkok, to take part in the King's (King of Siam) Birthday Celebrations.

To be continued in the May Issue of Periscope View.

	SUBMARINERS 'CROSSED THE BAR' REPORTED TO 31st MARCH 2021								
Branch	Date	Name	Rank/Rate	O/N	Age	Submarine Service			
Non-member	26th February 2021	Brian F Mitchelmore	Mechanician 1st Class	TBA	ТВА	Submarine Service in COURAGEOUS (1st Commission Crew) on 16th October 1971			
Non-member	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2021	** (Taff) Hughes	Petty Officer	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service in RENOWN (P)			
Non-member	4th March 2021	Craig Walker	TBA	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service TBA			
Non-member	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	William Stagg	Marine Engineering Artificer	D063***	75	Submarine Service in CHURCHILL on recommissioning at Chatham on 28th October 1975 & TRAFALGAR (1st Commission Crew) on 27th May 1983			
Submarine Officers Association	4th March 2021	Gerard Phipps McMullen	Commander	N/A	90	Submarine Service from 1952 to 1959 including SUBTLE (from 14th October 1955) & AURIGA (IL 1958 NL)			
Plymouth Branch	8th March 2021	Alan E Jones	Warrant Officer (MEM) (M)	K980581J	79	Submarine Service from February 1962 to June 1992 in SEASCOUT, ONSLAUGHT, ALARIC, RESOLUTION (P) (1st Commission 3rd October 1967) & RESOLUTION (S) (2nd Commission Crew 10th July 1971), WARSPITE, SPLENDID, TURBULENT & TRAFALGAR			
Scottish Branch	17th March 2021	William J B (Bas) Bowyer	Chief Engine Room Artificer	P/MX 803657	89	Submarine Service from 1953 to 1971 in AENEAS, TABARD, THOROUGH, AUROCHS, TURPIN, USS SARGO, USS HALIBUT, DREADNOUGHT (1st Commission Crew) in April 1963 & VALIANT (1st Commission Crew) on 18th July 1966			
Non-member	17th March 2021	Peter T Rapps	Marine Engineering Artificer (P)	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service including COURAGEOUS (1st Commission) & DREADNOUGHT (from 9th October 1978)			
Ex Eastern States Branch	17th March 2021	William George Hyde	Leading Seaman (UW2)	P/SX 864705	88	Submarine Service from 1954 to 1957 in ALARIC (1954 to 1955) & TELEMACHUS (1955 to 1957)			
Morecambe Bay Branch	19th March 2021	William G (Bill) Hyde	Mechanician 1	P/K963924	81	Submarine Service from May 1964 to Mar 1971 in TOKEN, REPULSE & DREADNOUGHT			
Non-member	March 2021	Ian Moffatt	Warrant Officer	TBA	TBA	VALIANT (1967 to 1969) & 'S' Class			