



# 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: Members at the Canal Barge Party

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*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**

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## EDITORIAL

### Hello Everybody,

I hope you are all keeping well and taking trying to get back to normal. Well, hasn't this been a busy month for Submarines, Submariners, and the Barrow Branch?

Starting with the Branch Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September saw Branch Standard Bearer Alex Webb and his 'escort' Steve May at the National Arboretum for the 'Breaking Ground' Ceremony at the site of the planned new Submariner Memorial. This was a 'limited numbers' occasion with five (should have been six) Standard Bearers, half a dozen serving submariners, members of the Memorial Project, Captain Irvine Lindsay (Deputy Commodore Submarines) and representatives from the media. The turf was cut by 100-year-old Diana Mayes, whose 25-year-old submarine CO husband Lt Gordon Noll RN was the Commanding Officer of HM Submarine UNTAMED when it was lost with all hands in the Clyde on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1943. Joining Diana to break the ground was a young Chef, Jack McHugh, from HMS VIGILANT's port crew, one of the youngest qualified submariners in the service. Gill Molyneux – widow of Lt Cdr Ian Molyneux GM RN and Patron of We Remember Submariners was also present. The speech was given by Deputy Commodore Submarine Service Captain Irvine Lindsay OBE RN.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September saw Alex's Canal Trip attended by seventeen Members and Friends and there are several

pictures in this issue – including on the front cover. Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September saw the Bi-annual Naval Associations Parade in Whitehall. The Submariner's Association was invited to take part this year for the first time and was represented by me (as the National Chairman), Ian Vickers as National Secretary, The National Standard Bearer and Standards and Members from several Association Branches.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September saw Branch Members Stewarding for the Keswick to Barrow Walk once again – a bit later than usual this year owing to Covid delays! Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> was the RAFA Battle of Britain Parade – a bit reduced this year but there is a report with photos in this issue. No Branch Standard this year as the weekend 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> also saw the VALIANT Reunion in Liverpool – with several Branch Members attending - including Alex.

Did you watch the TV Series VIGIL? I did watch one episode but lost interest very quickly. I think the producers and writers have been watching too much Star Trek with the Star Ship Enterprise and a bit of Doctor Who with VIGIL being a bit like a Tardis – normal size on the outside but enormous when on board! It says something that the programme makers seem to have upset both the Submariner Community and the Faslane Peace Campers who both think that they have been misrepresented! Much more realistic & truer to life was

the HMS TRENCHANT programme which showed the warts & all picture of life and problems at sea in one of the older nuclear submarines.

What else? HMS AUDACIOUS was formally 'Commissioned' at Faslane on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. I have included the press release from Faslane PRO in the Newsletter.

And finally we hear that the Aussies are going to get eight Nuclear Boats and have upset the French in the process by cancelling their plans to acquire the 12 'Short Fin Barracuda' Boats. How soon will we see Aussie Submariners in our SSNs for familiarisation and training and will there be opportunities for exchange drafts and will we see RAN Officers coming over for Perisher Training once again? Interesting times!

Two other pieces of news to interest to Submariners – Contracts have been let to enable concept & initial design work to commence for the ASTUTE Class replacement and its propulsion system – even before the last ASTUTE boat has been completed and the other news is that the MoD has bought Sheffield Forgemasters – the business which is the Contractor/Supplier for the large steel castings for the Astute's and the Dreadnought's and some overseas navies.

The October Branch Meeting will be on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October in the Concert Room at the RBL in Holker Street at 1930.

See you all there and don't be late!

Best Regards,

**Barrie**

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## SECRETARY'S DIT

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### **Hello Everyone**

The following emails and correspondence have been received over the last month. Attachments have been distributed to members.

E-mail From National Secretary - Another useful zoom meeting, not as many as we have had in the past but we are out of lockdown and it is time to get out again. Things that came up. We need a project to promote the Association. e are looking for ideas to promote the Association.

Memorials. There are quite a few submarine memorials around the country and branches are holding services at them.

This is normally is funded by a branch or several branches. We talked about financial support for them through the association. This will have to be taken to the NMC meeting.

Submariners Family. We would like COSM to give us an update on the progress.

The Embankment Parade. We have a problem getting the sound system to the Temple Gardens. It is at Dave Woolterton's house, and he cannot make it this year. Can anyone help by picking up the sound system from Dave's house getting it to Temple Gardens and back again?

E-mail From National Secretary: Embankment weekend program (circulated to members).

E-mail from National Secretary: HMS AUDACIOUS, Commissioning. The ASTUTE-Class attack submarine, HMS AUDACIOUS, was formally commissioned today (Thursday, September 23) during a ceremony at HM Naval Base Clyde. (full report forwarded to members).

Members of the ship's company and personnel from the Submarine Flotilla (SUBFLOT) were joined at the Faslane site by the boat's sponsor, Lady Elizabeth Jones, as they welcomed HMS AUDACIOUS to the Royal Navy Fleet. The Naval ceremony marks the completion of extensive tests and sea trials for the vessel with AUDACIOUS now ready for Royal Navy operations around the globe.

Commander Jim Howard, the Commanding Officer of HMS AUDACIOUS, said: "It is an absolute pleasure to be Commanding Officer of the Royal Navy's newest and most capable SSN. "As we now move from sea trials into our operational sea training programme, I and the whole ship's company are ready for the challenge ahead. "This formal commissioning ceremony marks another major milestone in the platform being fully operational and ready for tasking."

E-mail From Steve May - If anyone would like to attend the Upholder Reunion this weekend (2nd Oct.) you can go along to the RBL Hoker Street Barrow at 1900 on Saturday. If you do intend to turn up please let Steve May know via email, [snm18463@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:snm18463@yahoo.co.uk) or 07974357014, as soon as possible to assist with catering numbers.

E-mail From Ian Atkinson WRS: Thank you for your continued support of We Remember Submariners.

Please find attached the latest newsletter (circulated to members) from We Remember Submariners. I hope you find it informative and interesting. We have noticed that the numbers of active members to the charity is starting to fall, largely due to membership expiring. We realise that this is probably an oversight or something to do tomorrow, but retaining a membership to We Remember Submariners has a huge and beneficial impact in the level of help he can provide to submarine related causes. If you are renewing your membership, you can renew up to 6 months early and also opt to renew for a single year at £10 or for up to 10 years, thus future-proofing any increase in membership subscriptions. Please follow the link below to join We Remember Submariners or renew your membership. WRS Membership - We Remember Submariners ([we-remember-submariners.com](http://we-remember-submariners.com)). To increase the awareness of WRS, please feel free to distribute the newsletter far and wide.

On behalf of everyone at WRS please stay safe.

Ian Atkinson, Chairman. We Remember Submariners

E-mail from Kieth Lake - Had a talk with a couple of your members who attended the Battle of Britain commemoration on Sunday 19th September reference associate membership. (Barry Downer will remember me as the Mayors Mace Bearer). I have stated interest but being an ex-skimmer, have wondered about the ins and outs of membership. For interest during my in depth acoustic training during the seventies I was lent to the Orpheus, then did a bomber patrol on the Revenge (Qual Part 3) and for something a bit black cattish dived in a submersible on Lake Windermere. Left the RN in 88.

Could you advise me please. Thanks. Jake. Jake (Keith) Lake

Response by Dave Oakes: Hi Jake, Yes, you can join the Barrow Submariners Association as an associate member. We meet the first Tuesday of every month, 1930 start at the British Legion in Barrow. Just introduce yourself and Dave Smith our Secretary will sort you out. Please find a shortcut to our website: Welcome (rnsubs.co.uk)

Kind Regards - Dave Oakes

E-mail from Bob Pointer: Good morning all. My appointment with the oncologist yesterday was as expected although neither of us had said as much beforehand. Next month on the 7th I will start a further 4 chemotherapy cycles, although not as before. Please accept my apologies from attending not only the monthly meetings, Battle of Britain Sunday, Remembrance Sunday, plus social events for the present.

Regards

Bob

E-mail From Ben Britten : Bumped into Joan Cole in town yesterday, she tells me she is managing ok but still has a few issues.

Took a call from Rita West yesterday after noon my wife spent half an hour chatting with her, her cataracts are almost clear although she is not yet driving, she has been given the go ahead to drive just waiting for the right time to start again. She is well and managing ok.

Phone Call from Association Deputy Chair – I was asked why the Branch had not ordered a wreath for the November Ceremony. My response was that the Branch arrange their own and I would be taking it with me that weekend.

**David A J Smith**

**SA Barrow Branch Secretary**

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## **SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT**

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### **Hi Shipmates**

Happy October everybody, hope that this finds everyone well.

September 11th was (amongst other things) our canal trip, I managed to get 27 people to attend a 46 people run ashore, but I have to say even not at full capacity what a hoot it was. Given that I managed to spill 9 litres of wild sex cocktail in the coach bilge it still didn't stop us all having a very fluid and fun time. My thanks go (as always) to all who supported this, my thoughts are with those who wanted to come but because of various reasons couldn't attend and my warmest thanks are to Nikki McKay (resident DJ) and the staff of the Jungle Queen – excellent day out.

Friday 1st October HMS UPHOLDER veterans are coming to Barrow for a reunion and would like you to join them for a meet and greet at the RBL on Friday 1st October for a couple 4 – 7, then they will be off to the Blue Lamp for stew and karaoke (probably a beer or two as well) where you are welcome to attend. Saturday they will be in the Legion, pie and peas, a tot and a top table raffle to raise funds for their charity – please support them if you can; “Buddies in Boats”, “Brothers in Arms”. And if that wasn't enough a few of the die hards will be in the Albion for a DTS.

Friday 12th November will be our annual dinner dance – don't know where or how at the moment – watch this space. The Christmas Party will be at the Legion on Saturday 18th December (last Saturday before Christmas) tickets will be on sale from the October meeting £6 each, Denis Horan entertaining and bring a plate (normal routine) and lets end the year on a bang – who knows if I get enough support for this then there may be enough dosh in the kitty to have a pint or two at the Alfred or Seaweed Corner before the end of the year.

Finally, on a personal note. Every year I organise a 10k run to raise funds for the children and families affected by epilepsy in the Glasgow area. After 14 years of this I have come to the conclusion that I can't run, therefore, I have decided to raise money others ways.

Between 24th – 28th October me, Jan and my brother Alan (my older and not so good looking brother) are off to Gibraltar (Covid, Fuel & Government depending) to send my brother Alan to the top of Gibraltar on a sponsored walk. Alan served 22 years in the Navy, mostly in submarines; RENOWN (P) & TORBAY to name two. Alan left the navy mid 90s and developed a serious medical issue which involved major surgery 3 years ago; this has left him not operating at optimum depth or speed. Alan has kindly stepped up to the plate to force himself to undertake this task; which would be an understatement to say is very challenging for him. If you would like to support Alan and help me raise some money then please contact me to pledge your support and I will supply the website or a sponsor form at the October, November and December meetings. Thank you. Stay safe, get vaccinated and dust off your party outfits.

**Yours Aye.Alex**



## The 'Breaking Ground' Ceremony at the National Arboretum





## The 2021 Canal Trip



## A Stop on the Way There



## The Usual Suspects





And Some More!



## RAFA Battle of Britain Parade 2021

This year's Barrow in Furness Battle of Britain Parade on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September was a bit different to previous years. Usually the Parade falls in at the Town Hall and marches through Barrow behind the Sea Cadet Band and up Abbey Road to the Park and up the hill to the Cenotaph. This year no band – but Mike Ramsay did the honours with his Bagpipes. The Parade fell in just inside the Park gates and then moved up the hill to the Cenotaph.



The Parade marches up the hill to the Cenotaph  
Pipe Major leading!



The Veterans Platoon

At the Cenotaph it started to rain – but that was not on the Order of Service and the rain continued for the whole of the Service – which went as usual and was followed by the Laying of Wreaths.

On completion the Parade marched back down the hill and fell out at the Gates. Everyone then made their own way to the Legion for the usual Social event and Pie & Peas.



Dipping the Standards



At the Legion

Mark Butchart, Des Murphy, Lou Budden, Barrie Downer and Jake Lake (our new prospective Associate Member!)

### OCTOBER 2021 BRANCH CALENDAR

Upholder at the RBL (1600 to 1900)	Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct
Upholder Meet & Greet	Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct
October Branch Meeting	Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Committee Meeting	As Required

### NOVEMBER 2021 BRANCH CALENDAR

November Branch Meeting	Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov
Embankment Parade	Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Branch Dinner	Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Barrow Remembrance Parade	Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Committee Meeting	As Required

### DECEMBER 2021 BRANCH CALENDAR

December Branch Meeting	Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Branch Xmas Party	Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Committee Meeting	As Required



**NOTE:** October, November & December Meetings and Events may still be subject to cancellation at very short notice - dependent on further Government advice!

### **OCTOBER BRANCH BIRTHDAYS**

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**

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**

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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 [frozensnorth55@gmail.com](mailto:frozensnorth55@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 July for the August 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!

### **SUBMARINE LOSSES OF WWII** **OCTOBER 1941**

One Submarine was lost in October 1941 and two other Submariner Casualties were reported.

The Submarine lost was Submarine **HMS TETRARCH**. After leaving Alexandria on 17th October 1941 en-route home to UK via Malta and Gibraltar the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander Greenway, was requested to carry out a short patrol off Cavioli Island after leaving Malta and before proceeding to Gibraltar. Her last recorded position was established with Submarine HMS P34 as being 37 Degrees 28 Minutes North, 12 Degrees 35 Minutes East in the Sicilian Channel on 27th October 1941. No more was heard from Submarine HMS TETRARCH and the Submarine was presumed to have been lost in a minefield either in the Sicilian Channel or off the Island of Cavioli on 27th October 1941. There were no survivors from the Crew which was made up of the following:

#### **Officers:**

Lt Cdr George Henry Greenway,	CO
Lt E J Cornish-Bowden	IL
Lt Kenneth Walter Mackenzie Meyrick	3 <sup>rd</sup> Hand
Lt Douglas Riddell Stavert	4 <sup>th</sup> Hand
Lt Charles Henry Walmsley, RNR	NO
Lt (E) Peter Royston Phillips	Engineer
Sub Lt Robert Bell Houston	
Sub Lt Wilfred Edgar Evans, RNR	

#### **Ratings:**

PO Frederick Brown C/JX 126889  
PO James Nelson McBride, MiD P/JX 137696  
PO William Henry Hearnden, MiD C/JX 142635  
L/Sea Christopher Charles Cyril Whitehead C/JX 137530  
AB Eric Richard Evans P/JX 167384  
AB George Albert Hall P/JX 140549  
Able Seaman Douglas Frank Kennett P/JX 149114  
AB Leonard Enrico Tavolier P/JX 183394  
AB Kenneth Morrison P/SSX 24391  
AB William Edward Pepper C/JX 145671  
AB Hugh McDowell Brown, DSM RNVR/CDX/1885  
AB Arthur Bancroft J98441

AB Charles Albert Molesworth D/JX 135674  
 AB Gerard Flint Sharples D/JX 152776  
 AB Harold Davies D/SSX 28076  
 AB Brinley Richards D/SSX 13791  
 AB Jacob Rowland, MiD D/SSX 14877  
 AB Kenneth Hamilton Spencer RNZN/1345  
 O/Sea Frank William Smith C/JX 199511  
 O/Sea Richard Burke Willcocks C/JX 199879  
 O/Sea Llewelyn Wyn Jones D/JX 198346  
 PO Tel Gordon Ross Livingstone, MiD D/JX 135448  
 PO Tel Edwin Hornsby C/JX 133738  
 L/Tel Geoffrey Lucas Lickiss, MiD D/JX 134641  
 Tel Sidney John Martin D/JX 138482  
 O/Tel Douglas James Kerry C/JX 155603  
 Yeo Sigs McKenna Tom Northover, MiD\*\* P/JX 132658  
 L/Cook (S) Harry Heard C/MX 57453  
 LStd Henry Charles Chapman C/LX 14546  
 EA3 Victor Thomas Shinn P/MX 49544  
 CERA John Elliott, DSM M37034  
 ERA1 William James Newman M37676  
 ERA3 Walter Thomas Norris, MiD C/MX 52906  
 ERA4 Colin Wilson C/MX 76812  
 ERA William Parsons D/MX 60248  
 ERA William Joseph Davies S/MX 21  
 SPO William Pearson, MiD K55802  
 SPO William Scott D/KX 77897  
 L/Sto Ernest Hepworth D/KX 84655  
 L/Sto Arthur James Weetman, MiD D/KX 83542  
 A/L/Sto Harry Alfred Qusted C/KX 86887  
 A/L/Sto Ronald Heriot Winter P/KX 91395  
 A/L/Sto Henry George Lucas P/KX 92569  
 A/L/Sto William George Bell, MiD C/KX 83886  
 Sto1 Stanley Deeley K16674  
 Sto1 James Anderson P/KX 92952  
 Sto1 Arthur Roy Jacobs P/KX 90693  
 Sto1 Thomas Cyril Jennings P/KX 90714  
 Sto1 Andrew Murdoch P/KX 92902  
 Sto1 John Frederick Simmonds P/KX 93419  
 Sto1 Robert Taylor P/KX 84702  
 Sto1 James Owen Parkes Campion C/KX 98186  
 Sto1 Cyril Percy Stone C/SKX 971  
 Sto1 Thomas Glyndwr Richards K65509

One member of the crew of **Submarine H43** died on Tuesday 7th October 1941. The circumstances of his death are not yet known but the Submarine Museum records indicate that he was a 'buoy jumper'. He may have been drowned after falling in whilst either the Submarine was mooring to a buoy or slipping a mooring. He was:

AB Arthur Hall D/JX 208267

He is noted as being buried in Londonderry thus the Submarine may have been operating from that Port.

One Member of the crew of Submarine **HMS URGE** died on 12th Oct 1941. He was:  
 Sub Lt Brian Neville Thornley Lloyd

He had been appointed to HMS St ANGELO in Malta and it is reported that he was killed on a Special Operations Mission when operating from HMS URGE on 2nd October 1941. No details of the operation are available. He was aged 20.

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## SUBMARINE COMMISSIONING CREW LISTS

Commissioning and Re-dedication Crew Lists – are still arriving, thank you very much. Three more in August – for RORQUAL in Devonport on 22nd November 1961, NARWHAL at Devonport on 6th December 1962 & SEALION (3rd Commission 1970).

However, I am still looking for 'First Commission' Crew Lists as follows: PORPOISE, GRAMPUS, CACHALOT, WALRUS, OBERON, ONYX, ORPHEUS, ODIN, OTUS, UNICORN & AUDACIOUS

Also looking for copies of Crew Lists for subsequent Commissions of any 'O' Class, 'P' Class or Nuclear Boat – SSN & SSBN. Crew Lists for any Commissioning or Decommissioning of any Diesel 'A', 'S' or 'T' Class Boat refitting in Home Dockyards or in Malta, Singapore or Sydney are also required. 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. Thanks, Barrie Downer

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## DONATIONS & BEQUESTS TO THE SUBMARINE MUSEUM

For anyone thinking about making a Donation to or possibly leaving a Bequest to The Royal Navy Submarine Museum in your Will, please be aware that the Submarine Museum no longer exists as a Charity with its own finances. This is because the Submarine Museum is now part of The National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN). Any future Donations or Bequests for the Submarine Museum should therefore be directed to either the Friends of the Submarine Museum or to the National Museum of the Royal Navy.

### BEQUESTS

Should you wish to preserve the Submarine Heritage by making a bequest to the Submarine Museum in your will, you can achieve that via the Society of Friends of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum. We advise members to consult their Solicitors and use a form of words such as:

*"I give, free of tax, the following legacies: To the Society of Friends of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum (Charity No 1046251), Haslar Jetty Road, Gosport PO12 2AS, the sum of....."*

Bequeathing to the 'Friends' is one way of ensuring that the money benefits specifically the Submarine Museum. Virtually all the monies bequeathed to the Friends go directly to the Museum to support projects approved by the Friends Committee.



Our administration costs are very low and, since 1995 a total of £428,748 has been used to the benefit of the Submarine Museum. The latest support being provided for the purchase of the Cochrane Medals & Memorabilia and funding the production of a Submariners 'Digital Book of Remembrance' - which will be accessible 'on-line'

#### **FOURTH ASTUTE-CLASS SUBMARINE FORMALLY COMMISSIONED**

Thursday, 23 September 2021

ROYAL NAVY MEDIA RELEASE

The ASTUTE-Class attack submarine, HMS AUDACIOUS, was formally commissioned today (Thursday, September 23) during a ceremony at HM Naval Base Clyde.

Members of the ship's company and personnel from the Submarine Flotilla (SUBFLOT) were joined at the Faslane site by the boat's sponsor, Lady Elizabeth Jones, as they welcomed HMS AUDACIOUS to the Royal Navy Fleet.

The Naval ceremony marks the completion of extensive tests and sea trials for the vessel with AUDACIOUS now ready for Royal Navy operations around the globe.

Commander Jim Howard, the Commanding Officer of HMS AUDACIOUS, said: "It is an absolute pleasure to be Commanding Officer of the Royal Navy's newest and most capable SSN.

"As we now move from sea trials into our operational sea training programme, I and the whole ship's company are ready for the challenge ahead.

"This formal commissioning ceremony marks another major milestone in the platform being fully operational and ready for tasking."

During the ceremony, members of AUDACIOUS ship's company formed platoons on the jetty with Lady Elizabeth Jones inspecting them. Afterwards she addressed those gathered for the occasion and cut the commissioning cake.

HMS AUDACIOUS arrived at HM Naval Base Clyde for the first time on April 7 last year where she joined sister-vessels HMS ASTUTE, HMS ARTFUL and HMS AMBUSH. The Astute-Class nuclear powered submarines are among the most sophisticated underwater vehicles ever constructed, gradually replacing the Trafalgar-Class submarines which have provided sterling service for almost four decades.

Equipped with sophisticated sensors, the Astute-Class submarines carry both Tomahawk Land Attack Cruise Missiles (TLAM) and Spearfish heavyweight torpedoes.

The vessels are capable of circumnavigating the globe while submerged, producing their own oxygen, and drinking water.

Speaking of the Commissioning, Commodore Jim Perks, Head of the Royal Navy Submarine Service, said: "This is an extremely important day in the life of HMS AUDACIOUS and I am delighted that the sponsor, Lady Elizabeth Jones, was able to formally commission this, our fourth Astute-Class submarine, today.

"Throughout this pandemic, AUDACIOUS has delivered her extensive trials programme without fuss and with considerable style.

"I wish the boat, crew and their families all the very best for the future and look forward to seeing her deliver on operations."



**HMS AUDACIOUS' sponsor, Lady Elizabeth Jones, addresses crew members during the ceremonial commissioning at HM Naval Base Clyde**



**Lady Jones meets crew members from AUDACIOUS.**



Proud crew members from HMS AUDACIOUS, the fourth of the Astute-Class submarines.



Lady Jones and the youngest crew member on board AUDACIOUS cut the commissioning cake.



The ceremonial commissioning at Faslane.

Sent by: Royal Navy Communications & Influence, Regional Press Office (Scotland & Northern Ireland), HM Naval Base Clyde.

### THE ASTUTE SUCCESSOR

The first work has begun on a successor to the Submarine Service's cutting-edge hunter-killer force – even before all the current boats have been delivered to the Navy.

BAE Systems and Rolls-Royce have each been given £85m to start thinking about the design and capabilities of a new class of submarine which will eventually take over from the Astute class.

Over the next three years 350 designers, engineers, and shipwrights – 250 in the North-West and 100 in the Midlands – will carry out design and concept work, work which will help Whitehall determine how it replaces the Astute 's when they begin to reach the end of their active careers.

Four boats are currently in service – the newest, HMS AUDACIOUS, was formally commissioned on 23<sup>rd</sup> September – No.5 - HMS ANSON is undergoing final trials and testing in Barrow, where the last two boats (HMS AGAMEMNON and AGINCOURT) are being completed.

All seven Astutes will be in service by 2026 and each is expected to serve for at least a quarter of century – taking the class into the second half of the 21st Century.

HMS ASTUTE herself has already been in service over a decade and given the complexities of building nuclear submarines – plus the pace of technological change below the waves (the Royal Navy is already investing in its first crewless submersibles) – preparing for the next generation of boats needs to start now.

“Designing and building submarines is one of the most complex and challenging feats of engineering that the maritime industry undertakes,” explained Ian Booth, head of the Submarine Delivery Agency. “It is essential that work on the next generation underwater capability commences as early as possible. This relies on some of the nation's most experienced defence nuclear experts from the very beginning of the design phase.”

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said awarding the two contracts marked “the start of a new journey for the Royal Navy's submarines. British designers and engineers will lead the way in developing submarines for our Royal Navy.

“This multi-million-pound investment ensures that this vital capability will be ready to replace our Astute Class submarines as they come out of



service, whilst supporting high-skilled jobs across the Midlands and North West of England.”

The BAE team will focus on the design and construction of the new class – provisionally known as the SSNR (Submersible Ship Nuclear

Replacement) programme – while Rolls-Royce in Derby will concentrate on the development/production of the boats’ reactors.

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## THE DESMOND GERRISH AUTOBIOGRAPHY

(Continued from the September 2021 Issue of Periscope View)

February 1965

I was appointed to the Second Submarine Squadron, as the Squadron Staff T.A.S. Officer. The ‘2<sup>nd</sup>’ was based at Plymouth, with H.M.S. ADAMANT, as the Depot Ship to look after the 14 submarines in the Squadron. I had been specially selected for this particular post, following my time at A.U.W.E, because H.M.S. FORTH, another S/M Depot Ship was nearing completion of a 3½ year modernisation, which included special facilities to look after Nuclear S/Ms and the new breed of modern torpedoes. The plan was to disband the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, pay off the stately, but elderly H.M.S. ADAMANT for scrap and create a new S/M Squadron, with FORTH as its Depot Ship, to be based in Singapore. I was nominated as the ‘Link’ between disbanding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron and the creation of the 7<sup>th</sup>. Squadron (H.M.S. FORTH).

However, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron was to continue as a Frontline Squadron for at least another nine months, until FORTH was anywhere near coming into service, so I had plenty of work to do. The Staff T.A.S. Officer, I was relieving, was none other than Nigel Phillips, our long T.A.S. Course teacher. Surprisingly, he hadn’t been promoted to Commander and had soldiered on in several other T.A.S. posts and had finally completed 2½ years as S.T.A.S.O., in the 2<sup>nd</sup> S/M Squadron, when he was now going to retire.

Nigel had planned a full, working week to handover his duties to me, using the lunchtimes and evenings for introducing me to the ADAMANT Officers, C.O.s of all 14 Submariners, Civilian Officers in the Torpedo Supply Depot and Dockyard Officers involved with Tugs and Barges, Cranes etc. that shuffled torpedoes from Depot – all these Introductions over Drinks of course! He gave me the best Handover possible, but nevertheless I felt the strain quite a bit for the first few weeks after Nigel had left – my Department was enormous; a Torpedo Division of 3 Officers and 80 Men that serviced torpedoes in H.M.S. ADAMANT’s huge workshops and worked ADAMANT’s many cranes for loading/unloading submarines; a Diving Division of 1 Officer and 12 Divers, that changed S/M propellers underwater, amongst other things; a Sonar Department to service the submarines outfits of Sonars and, finally, working with the small staff that planned the programmes for each of our 14 Submarines.

I was very fortunate to inherit a T.A.S. “Empire” that was renowned for its efficiency and who gave me very loyal support from the day I took over as their ‘Boss’. I knew quite a few personally from the past, as I did with a fair number of Submarine C.O.s and Officers. Thankfully, H.M.S. CACHALOT and OTTER belonged to this Squadron, so there were 2 Submarines I knew intimately.

Family wise, we had moved back to our own house in Alverstoke after leaving A.U.W.E. until a Married Quarter was allocated to us in Plymouth. Hazel, by now, was quite expert at packing our goods and chattels ready for removal vans – even occupying extremely well-furnished Married Quarters, there was always a fair-sized load of our own household items. Items surplus to what we needed or surplus to what each new tenant in No.1 wanted, were stored in the very large attic at No.1

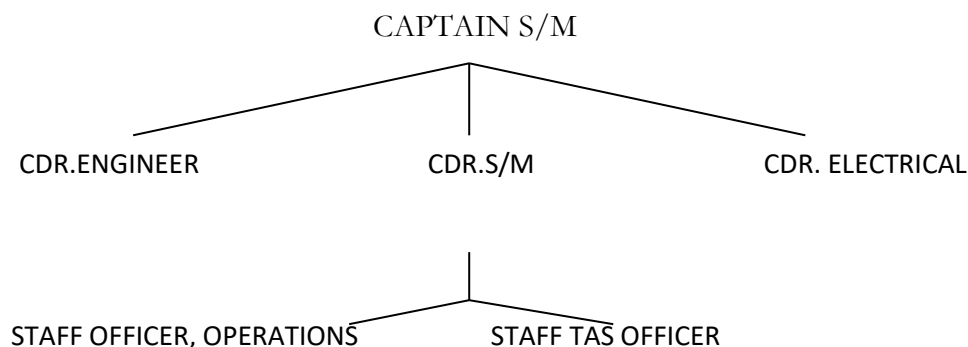
We were warmly welcomed at our Married Quarter in Plymstock – like the A.U.W.E. posting M.Q., it was halfway between Plymouth and Devonport (where the dockyard was). The Captain of H.M.S. ADAMANT and the Submarine Squadron, Captain Charlie Hammer, lived right opposite our house and a lot of the Adamant and Submarine Officers were spread around this big patch of M.Q.s. So, similar to our Minesweeper days, we were back inside a close-knit society (this time submarines) where you were made one of this enlarged family from Day One.

Back to the job. Charlie Hammer, our boss as Captain S/M2, had fought the war in submarines, ending up with command of his own submarine and achieving a fair number of enemy sinkings. I’ve always enjoyed working for Senior Officers who had fought the war and survived – the true professionals. Their ultimate analysis of you was simply, ‘How effective would this Officer be in combat with the enemy?’ Charlie was no exception. He gave me my brief on my first day of joining Adamant. “Desmond” he said, “every one of those 14 marvellous modern submarines under my command, with their highly trained and experienced crew, are as nothing, if they cannot sink the enemy. To sink the enemy, they have to be brilliant in their use of Sonar and be

even more brilliant in hitting their targets with torpedoes. All of which is your Department. You have my full authority to have done whatever is necessary to keep those 14 submarines up to scratch all the time. While I will leave you to get on with it without checking up on you, I am always available day or night, for you to see me if you see a problem which needs my attention. Now have a drink!”

We all loved Charlie. His declared trust in his Officers didn’t stop there. Every one of his N.C.O.s and Junior Ratings got the same message, particularly the Submarine Crews – 14 times 70 men – and he got round them all, to spend time speaking to individuals or small groups, as the submarines came and went for their lengthy patrols.

As in all Submarine Squadrons, the Operations Staff was very small – quite the envy of Fleet and Admiralty Staffs.



In effect, the ‘STAFF’ was CDR.S/M., S.O.O. and S.T.A.S.O. (myself). The 3 of us worked hand in glove. Cdr.S/M and S.O.O. were experienced Submarine Captains. Cdr. S/M was Johnny Mereweather, a South African by birth. A great socialite, humourist, and drinker. S.O.O. was Ian Morrison, married to an heiress, a practical joker and drinker, with a brilliant brain. We became close friends.

It was, and still is, customary for Cdr. S/M., S.O.O. and S.T.A.S.O. to be the first aboard submarines returned from patrol, essentially to de-brief the sub’s C.O. before he left for a well-earned spot of Leave. Invariably, the Submarine Wardroom Bar was opened as soon as they tied up – it had remained firmly closed since they left harbour months ago. It would have been nothing short of churlishness not to have joined them in their welcome home celebratory drinking party. Okay for that particular submarine’s Captain and Officers – they were all pushing off on leave – we had to go back to work. And that was difficult. Crammed into the tiny Wardroom, people had to move for you to exit and the response was “Oh, sit down and have another drink, what’s the rush anyway.” Or other ploys to keep you trapped, like we haven’t told you about the Russian Submarine we trailed at close quarters etc. One of the several outlandish Submarine C.O.s in the squadron – Geoff Meek, from my own Sub. Lieutenants Year – actually ordered the sub’s hatches to be closed to prevent me from leaving the ‘Party’! What could you do with them and their over generous hospitality without becoming an alcoholic wreck? My formula was to sip from the glass as slowly as possible before it was wrenched from your grasp for a lethal refill. But always immensely enjoyable.

As well as the notorious hard drinking of duty-free spirits in submarines while in harbour, the Wardroom Bar in H.M.S. ADAMANT was also duty-free, but this was only vulnerable to Lunchtime Hoolies, since the majority of us lived ashore and went home before the Bar opened again at 6 p.m.

To be continued in the November Issue of Periscope View.

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### Update on the New Wet Dock Quay

The Photos on the following Page show the progress on the New Wert Dock Quay in the Devonshire Dock over the period 6<sup>th</sup> August to 25<sup>th</sup> September

The First Photo taken was 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021

The Second Photo was taken on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021





Photo taken 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021



Lifting one of the Piles before placing in position before driving into the floor of Devonshire Dock

### SUBMARINERS 'CROSSED THE BAR' REPORTED SEPTEMBER 2021

Branch	Date	Name	Rank/Rating	Official Number	Age	Submarine Service
Non-member	1st September 2021	David William (Sid) Waller	Chief Petty Officer Mechanician	TBA	88	Submarine Service in DREADNOUGHT (1963 to 1968?) & SWIFTSURE
Non-member	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	Ian David (Taff) Jones	Chief Petty Officer (Sonar) (SM)	TBA	64	Submarine Service from 1974 to 2000 in REVENGE, REPULSE (Port Crew) on 20th February 1979, RESOLUTION (S) (on 1st October 1984) & REVENGE
Ex Merseyside Branch	5th September 2021	Wilfred Broyden	Chief Petty Officer 1	RCN 106-865-371	TBA	Submarine Service from June 1967 to September 1995 in OKANAGAN, ONONDAGA, OJIBWA & OSIRIS
Non-member	14th September 2021	Paul Todd	Chief Petty Officer Weapons Electrical Artificer	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service TBA
Dolphin Branch	19th September 2021	Harry Melling	Leading Torpedo Operator	TBA	101	Submarine Service from 1939 to 1945 in TUNA & OSIRIS
Gosport Branch (ex-Sussex Branch)	23rd September 2021	Edward R Jones	Leading Seaman (UW)	P056416	76	Submarine Service from February 1964 to January 1972 in RORQUAL (1964), OBERON (1963 to 1967), ASTUTE (1967 to 1968) & ONSLAUGHT (1970 to 1971)
Medway Towns Branch	24th September 2021	Geoffrey Marshall	Chief Petty Officer Coxswain	P/JX 887198	TA	Submarine Service from 1954 to 1972 in ANCHORITE (1954), TIRELESS (on commissioning at Portsmouth on 21st March 1955), TRUMP (1956), THOROUGH (1957), AUROCHS (1958 to 1959), TELEMACHUS (1959), TUDOR (1961 to 1962), ALLIANCE (1963 to 1966), TIPTOE (1966 to 1967 & on Commissioning at Chatham on 24th February 1967) & DREADNOUGHT (1967 to 1972 including North Pole trip on 3rd March 1971) Died