



# 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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[www.submarinersassociation.co.uk](http://www.submarinersassociation.co.uk)

February 2022



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### Cover Picture: HMS TRUMP in SM1 AT MALTA (1952)

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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

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#### Hello Everybody,

Firstly, How is everyone – keeping well and still avoiding Covid I hope! Now we can all get back to the ‘proper normal’ and ditch the masks, social distancing and soon, hopefully, all the testing. Anyway I hope you are all keeping well and getting on with life in general.

Well, the **TRUCULENT Memorial Service** at Chatham was postponed and the **K13 Weekend** didn't go ahead at all! In the event only two names were put forward for K13 & I was one! Before I had a chance to sort out anything about travel there was an email from Faslane cancelling the whole thing. For various reasons the Saturday Dinner couldn't be allowed and the Base was not issuing Passes to anyone not working in the Base. Very disappointing so no chance to top up the freezer with Haggis, Square (Lorne) Sausage and Black Pudding from the Callaghan's butcher's Shop in Sinclair Street for the third year in a row! The West of Scotland Branch & Base personnel will still go ahead with limited Wreath Laying ceremonies at the K13 Memorials in Elder Park and Garelochhead.

Our next event (after the Branch Meeting on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February) will be the Annual **'First Footing'** visit to the **Morecambe Bay Branch** on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February. The number of places for this event are limited so make sure Alex has your name as soon as possible if you want to go!

In March there will be the **Submariners Association National Council Conference and Families Weekend** on the weekend 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> March. This year we will be back at the Holiday Inn in Leicester where we went in 2019. We were looked after very well on that visit and the Hotel is very close to the City Centre and to Leicester Cathedral so you can always pop in to see King Richard's tomb before going for a pint or two on in the City Centre on the Saturday afternoon. If you haven't booked now it might be too late but you could appeal to Iain Mackenzie in case there are any late cancellations!

April to June will see the **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Falklands Campaign**. No information yet of any plans to mark this Anniversary locally but given the significant involvement of Barrow built ships and Submarines something will need to be arranged. Information is just coming through on the many events to be held around the country and these will be circulated shortly by one of the NMC (a 'Volunteer') who is to be the SA Point of Contact (POC).

April will also see our Barrow **St. George's Day Parade and Service** and our Branch **AE1/AE2 Wreath Laying**.

On 7<sup>th</sup> May there will be the last but one Submariners Association **VC Blue Plaque** unveiling ceremony for **Donald Cameron VC** at Carluke and, in the same month, there will be the unveiling of the new Submariners Memorial at the National Arboretum. The date is now confirmed as **18<sup>th</sup> May** and, apart from 'the great and the good' - VIPS & Guests there will be a good attendance of 80 Serving Submariners & 80 Veterans from Association Members, We Remember Submariners, the Friends of the Submarine museum, and Standard Bearers. The Veteran attendees are being co-ordinated by the Association National Treasurer – Andy Bain – who is the SA 'Rep' on the Memorial Committee. A very long Bank Holiday weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June will see the **Queens Platinum Jubilee Ceremonies** around the Country and including, I understand, a Parade on Southsea Common to be arranged by the RNA. Details yet available but are expected shortly and they will be circulated in due course. June will also see the **Armed Forces Day Ceremonies** which, hopefully will go ahead as normal in Barrow after a two-year break. So, as you will see, this could be a very busy first six months of 2022.

One piece of Sad news this month – former Branch Member - Rear Admiral Ian Pirnie – 'Crossed the Bar' on 17<sup>th</sup> January at the age of 86. He was a Branch Member back in the early years of the 2000s. Some may remember him for his Polaris days (REPULSE & RESOLUTION) and others from his time as PNO in the yard during the Vanguard/Trident build years. The Funeral took place on 27<sup>th</sup> January at Colton Church. The church was packed with Family and Friends. The Branch was represented by Chairman Dickie Cambridge, Secretary Dave Smith, Standard Bearer Alex Webb (who paraded the Branch Standard) and Branch Members Les Hambling, Gordon Walker, Tony Griffiths and Barrie Downer. The local RBL Standard Bearer also attended and paraded their Standard. The Branch also loaned the White Ensign for the coffin. One unintended salute was provided by two low flying F35s at the moment of interment drowning out the words of the Vicar.

That's about it for now – I hope to see you all at the Branch Meeting on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February – usual time – usual place 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 Chairman.

I have just heard from Tom Herman that the Unveiling Ceremony at the Arboretum will be on 18<sup>th</sup> May. Full details of the Ceremonial arrangements are not yet available but should be circulated shortly.

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Regret to advise that former Barrow Branch member Rear Admiral Ian Hugh Pirnie 'Crossed the Bar' on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at the age of 86.

He served as a Submariner from November 1965 to February 1993 including DOLPHIN, RESOLUTION, REPULSE & NEPTUNE.

The Funeral will be at the Holy Trinity Church, Colton, Bouth, Cumbria LA12 8HF at 1400 on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Apologies for the short notice but the Branch was only advised this morning. Information was provided by Ian's daughter Lois Wood on 07884 197255 or 01229 885250.

Funeral Director is Mike of Wrens Funeral Services, Levenside, Newby Bridge, Cumbria LA12 8LZ Contact Numbers 015395 31082 or 07921 214661

Barrie K Downer

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E-mail from National Secretary:

1. In-Depth 75 issued to members.

2. After long consideration, we have decided to postpone HMS/M Truculent Memorial Service this month. Who knows what restrictions may suddenly be imposed, so better to postpone now rather than at short notice.

Best regards, Derek Grant, Medway Towns Branch

+++++

3. Do any of you remember David Emslie Wellburn?

Died at RN Haslar Hospital on 22 September 1971.

CERA on HMS Renown,

And can you remember what happened?

Regards, Ian Vickers, National Secretary

From: Steve Wellburn

Sent: 07 January 2022 12:26

Subject: Historical Enquiry

My father, David Emslie Wellburn MX 855649, was a serving submariner until his death at RN Haslar Hospital on 22 September 1971.

My mother passed away some years ago and our family has no record of what happened after he passed away. We know there was an inquest and a fairly major funeral in Gosport. But beyond that, we don't know anything.

The circumstances of his death were somewhat delicate as he was the CERA on HMS Renown, and over his months of illness was never really allowed the chance to fully recover between operations. As a result, the relationship between my mother and the RN became very strained. Hence the lack of contact since.

I presume his body was cremated and I would dearly like to establish what happened to his ashes and whether and where any plaque or even record of his committal exists. I visited Haslar cemetery in December but found no record of his name.

His personnel records show his last positions as Renown (Neptune 2), and then Neptune 1. So maybe his ashes were sent to Faslane. We checked online but found nothing.

I have enquired through various Facebook groups and received fantastic support and advice, especially from some who remember him. Through this, I was advised to contact the Submariners Association. I am not sure if this is something open to families or just submariners, or even whether you are able to assist me in my quest?? However, any guidance or advice on who or where to contact would be enormously appreciated.

BTW - My Dad was a prodigious photographer and I have some fabulous pictures with various shipmates which I would be happy to share if of any interest to the Association? Thank you for your time and looking forward to hearing from you in due course.

Best Regards Stephen D Wellburn

+++++

4. From: Sam Morrow

Sent: 11 January 2022 16:38

Subject: K13 Weekend - Cancelled

Due to current circumstances the base will not allow us to hold the K13 dinner in the Senior Rates Mess and they are also not renewing base passes in the foreseeable future, that's been put on hold again, passes will only be issued for operation visits. . I, therefore, regret to have to tell you that we have had to cancel the K13 weekend at the end of January. We intend to hold two local services with minimum numbers at Faslane Cemetery and the Elder Park Memorial as we did last year. Can you please inform other branch secretaries of this decision and I hope they understand?

Best regards, Sam Morrow

+++++

5. Bank Accounts:

From: Paul Ellis

Sent: 08 January 2022 22:41

Subject: Bank accounts

Ian, Not sure if you can help but I'm sure other branches have had the same issue I had to change their bank account. We have been banking with HSBC for free for many years. We are now being charged £5 every month and £0.40 to process a cheque, we do not use internet banking. Can you or a branch recommend a bank that we can change to that is free of charge and does not require you to have internet banking?

Paul Ellis, Nottingham Branch Secretary

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6. NMC Positions will need filling.

Standard-bearer. Trevor Thomas resigned last year and Andy Morgan has to have an operation on his shoulder. So we are looking for someone to take on the roll of National Standard Bearer. Anyone can apply as full training will be given even if your have been a standard bearer to a branch.

Position on NMC. There is one position on the NMC that needs filling. I have had no replies to my emails and if anyone would like to volunteer please contact me.

Membership Secretary. Dave Woolterton will stand down from the post next year's AGM 2023. To allow time to hand over properly we are asking if anyone would like to take on the roll.

Web manager. Again, Dave Woolterton will stand down from the post next year's AGM 2023. We are not sure what will happen with the website as Submarine Family may take over the running of it.

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7. E-mail from National Treasurer  
Subject: monthly bank balances

Main Account  
Start Balance £76 100.25  
Out £1 679.24  
In £1 320.00  
Balance £75 741.01

Slops  
Start Balance £1 004.42  
Out £0.00  
In £15.00  
Balance £1019.42

Reunion  
Start Balance £6 162.30  
Out £0.00  
In £3 515.00  
Balance £9 677.30

Blue Plaque  
Start Balance £1992.30  
Out £0.00  
In £0.00  
Balance £1992.

Kind Regards  
Andy Bain  
Submariners Association National Treasurer

E-mail from Steve May

Hi Dave,

Ian is making a bit of an assumption here isn't he?? Sounds like he has us as part of the Submarine Family already!!!

Web manager

Again, Dave Woolterton will stand down from the post next year's AGM 2023.

We are not sure what will happen with the Website as Submarine Family may take over the running of it. Not impressed with his wording and assumptions!!!

Best Regards

Steve May | Fleet Safety Trainer

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**David A J Smith**

**SA Barrow Branch Secretary**

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### SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

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#### Hi Shipmates

Hope that this finds you all well and raring to go for the first function of 2022.

I had a very quiet period over the festive period and unfortunately was unable to make the January meeting. But we are now in February and let's get motivated.

Friday 4th February is when we 'first foot' the Morecambe branch and all our friends over there. £10 a place and is heavily subsidised by the branch. Depart RBL at 6pm; stop at Ulverston and then straight through to Morecambe hopefully for about 7.30ish. I would ask all attending to have a lateral flow test completed before turning up for the coach; I won't need the test but your word – which is good enough for me.

Payment for this can be made at the Feb meeting or on the coach; but remember if you have put your name down then you will need to pay, because as mentioned before the slack for this is paid for out of branch funds. I have 5 places available.

St Patrick's day party is at the legion on Saturday 19th March, Denis Horan is our entertainment and I will knock up some bangers and mash to soak up the beer. Tickets are £6 each and are on sale from the Feb meeting. I don't like to mention this but the Christmas party; as much fun as it was, did not get very good attendance in fact there were 27 no shows. If I can't get the support for the Legion functions then I will need to consider their worth in the future.

Saturday 14th May is the SA birthday party at the Brown Cow Dalton. I will advise on this later but it will be a sit down meal for 30 persons and some dits and a laugh.

The only other thing I will mention at this time is the Cartmel races day otherwise known as Dickie Cambridge's birthday bash Saturday 16th July. Tickets £15 each return coach trip, ticket for your entry will be extra cost to you.

See you at the meeting.

**Yours Aye**

**Alex**

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## **FEBRUARY 2022 BRANCH CALENDAR**

Branch Meeting	Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb
Morecambe Branch 1 <sup>st</sup> Footing	Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Committee Meeting	As Required

## **MARCH 2022 BRANCH CALENDAR**

Branch Meeting	Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar
SA NCC Leicester	25 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> Mar
Committee Meeting	As Required

## **APRIL BRANCH CALENDAR**

Branch Meeting	Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Apr
AE1 & AE2	Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Apr
St Georges Parade	Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Apr
Committee Meeting	As Required

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

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### **FEBRUARY BRANCH BIRTHDAYS**

J. (Jimmy) Rimmer	04/02/1974
D. (Yorky) Thornton	20/02/1948
W.P. (Billy) Daniels	24/02/1940
A. (Alex) Webb	16/02/1960
R. (Richard) O'Callaghan	21/02/1974

**Happy Birthday All!**

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### **REMEMBERING FORMER BRANCH**

#### **MEMBERS**

#### **'CROSSED THE BAR' - FEBRUARY**

Frederick Ralph Pillifent	1982
Walter A Brakewell	1995
Wallace King	1999
Geoffrey Bond	2000
Robert Moody	2002
Ronald Cooper	2007
Kenneth Williams	2014
David Crossland	2014
Anthony Sainty	2015
Alan Geoffrey Pillifent	2019
John Dalton	2019
John W B Taylor	2019

#### **RESURGAM**

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### **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.

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### **NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Do you have a story to tell or have information you feel should appear in the Newsletter - then ring Barrie Downer on 01229 820963 or, if you wish to send me an article, my postal address is The Firs, Dundalk Street, Barrow Island, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA14 2RZ. You may also send your contribution by e-mail to me on [frozzennorth55@gmail.com](mailto:frozzennorth55@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 February for the March 2022 Issue. Please ensure you have any information with me by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to ensure its inclusion in the next issue. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition – keep them stories coming!

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### **SUBMARINE LOSSES OF WWII FEBRUARY 1942**

Two Submarines were lost in February 1942 – one lost with all hands. Also one Free French Submarine operating under RN Control was lost with all hands in the Caribbean – including the three RN Liaison personnel. Three other Submariners are reported to have died.

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#### **HMS DOLPHIN**

An Officer appointed to HMS DOLPHIN is reported to have died on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1942. The circumstances of his death are not established. He was: Lieutenant Thomas J Doyle, RN and he was the 49-years old son of Thomas and Mary Doyle & the husband of Jane Ann Doyle, of Copnor. He is buried in the Haslar Naval Cemetery.

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#### **Submarine HMS P31**

One member of the crew of Submarine HMS P31 died on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 1942. He was: Lieutenant Michael Humphrey Gardner, Royal Navy. Michael Gardner was 'Officer of the Watch' on the bridge whilst on patrol in the Mediterranean. It is understood that an order was misunderstood, and the Submarine started to dive without warning. Michael Gardner was washed overboard and was lost. He is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval War Memorial on Panel No. 62 Column No. 1.

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#### **Submarine HMS TEMPEST**

HMS TEMPEST was scuttled in position 39°11' North 17°47' East in the Gulf of Taranto on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1942 following a seven-hour depth charge attack by the Italian Torpedo Boat CIRCE (Capitano di Corvetta Stephanino Palmas). Of the crew of sixty-three there were twenty-four survivors (twenty-three out of sixty-two - according to the Coxswain). The remainder were lost.

#### **Casualties**

**Officers:**

Lt Cdr William Alexander Keith Napier Cavaye  
Sub Lt Michael Neel Neel-Wall

**Ratings**

PO John Burns D/JX 140126  
L/Sea Christopher Frain P/SSX 23655  
L/Sea Ernest Thomas Joseph Lowin C/SSX 20128  
AB Hugh Pritchard C/SSX 33930  
AB Harry Cromwell Whitfield C/SSX 17514  
AB Joseph Anthony Meek C/JX 152623  
AB Andrew Waugh P/SSX 21188 (Po)  
AB Robert Charles Eales D/JX 203162  
AB David Isaac Williams D/JX 137378  
AB Allen George Worth D/JX 153135  
AB Christopher Paul Waters D/JX 206092  
AB John Hugh Paul Burns D/JX 167231  
AB John Leslie Winter D/JX 198481  
Ord/Sea Alfred John Cronin C/JX 266184  
AB Elijah Whitaker D/JX 208577  
PO Tel John Alfred Sanders D/JX 138319  
L/Tel Edward Lewis Bains P/JX 143981  
Tel Peter George William Jackson P/JX 157500  
Sig Frederick Drew P/JX 154013  
PO Ck Ronald Charles Gomer D/MX 49082  
L/Ck George Emmanuel Henry Parsons C/MX 54986  
L/Std Edward Shipley P/LX 21906  
CERA Frederick Arthur Stevens C/M 37007  
ERA4 Donald Cameron C/MX 73098  
ERA4 Douglas Edwin Alfred Loose P/MX 78277  
Chief Stoker Albert Spowart P/K 60766  
SPO Reginald John Wainwright P/KX 85580  
SPO Ernest Herbert Alfred Fiddes D/KX 82259 MID  
L/Sto Archie Edward Jury D/KX 79574  
L/Sto Christopher McTaggart Waddell C/KX 91739  
Sto1 Albert Harry Collett P/KX 88439  
Sto1 Thomas Smith Cope C/KX 114379  
Sto1 George Frederick Hardy C/KX 93965  
Sto1 Daniel Kelly D/KX 93894  
Sto1 Fred Lavender C/KX 82135  
Sto1 John Morrison D/KX 80906  
Sto1 Frederick Rear C/KX 93380  
Sto2 George William Davies D/KX 132023

**Survivors****Officers:**

Lt Cdr Herbert Dudley Bowker RNR  
Lt Moran V H Caplet, RNVR  
Lt (E) Reginald Walter Blatchford

**Ratings:**

PO Charles Graham Norton Anscomb, DSM, MiD J107352  
PO (TGM) Eric Scott Campbell J113661  
PO Jack Baines  
L/Sea Thomstone  
AB Michael Humphries  
AB Victor Douglas Rhodes C/JX 198091  
AB Samuel Isaacs  
A/L/Tel Ian Robinson  
Tel George Millward

Tel Robert Appleton C/JX 205674  
EA John Winrow  
CERA Room Artificer Fox  
ERA Rogers  
ERA Whitehead  
L/Sto George Hobbs  
Sto1 Class G F Hardy  
Joe Wootton

**HMS MEDWAY**

One member of the crew of the Submarine Depot Ship HMS MEDWAY died on Sunday 12th February 1942. Lieutenant Charles Oliver Mansfield Vine, Royal Naval Reserve  
Charles Vine was the twenty-seven-year-old son of Charles John and Nellie Olive Vine of Emsworth. He is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval War Memorial on Panel No. 71 Column No. 1.

**Free French Submarine SURCOUF**

The Royal Navy Liaison Crew attached to the Free French Submarine SURCOUF died on 18th February 1942 when the Submarine was accidentally sunk in a collision with an American Merchant Vessel in the Caribbean. Those lost were:

**Officers:**

Temporary Sub Lieutenant Rodger John Gilbert Burney, RNVR

**Ratings:**

L/Sig Harold Frank Warner J87260  
Tel Bernard Gough J107930

**Submarine HMS P38**

P38 was a 'U' Class submarine. On 23rd February 1942 Submarine P38 was detected by the Italian Torpedo Boat CIRCE which made a depth charge attack which blew the submarine to the surface. There was then a gunfire attack by the Italian Destroyer ANTONIOTTO USODIMARE after which P38 submerged again. Further depth charge attacks were made by both ANTONIOTTO USODIMARE and EMMANUEL PESSAGNO which, again, brought Submarine P38 to the surface before sinking for the last time. Submarine P38 was lost with all hands. The Crew consisted of the following personnel:

**Officers:**

Lt Rowland John Hemingway DSC  
Lt David Airy Eustace  
Lt Stephen Arthur Pidgeon  
T/Sub Lt Henry Shaw Mordaunt Christopher, RNVR

**Ratings:**

PO George Edward Benfield P/JX 128783  
PO Phillip Thomas Merkel P/JX 130551  
L/Sea Ernest Robert Edwell J101500  
AB Richard Eustace Gover C/JX 190485  
AB Frederick Turnbull C/SSX 20030  
AB Leonard Brightman J97384  
AB George Henry Ronald C/SSX 26013

AB Peter John Alfred Lawler C/JX 221120  
AB Charles Henry Salter P/JX 145845  
AB Eric Oscar Scouse P/JX 139585  
AB Leonard Atkinson D/JX 238569  
AB Samuel Butler D/JX 188247  
AB Arthur Sidney Hallsworth D/JX 186407  
PO Tel Stanley Walter Beckett J112814  
L/Sto Alfred Henry Robinson C/JX 133890  
L/Sto Cornelius Abraham George Mercer D/JX 148281  
Tel Arthur James Ferguson P/JX 153630  
Sig James Thomas Weaver D/SSX 29182  
CERA John Charles Schroder M35645  
ERA Donald Leonard Marrable C/MX 50282  
ERA Clarence William Durnell D/MX 75078  
SPO Walter Thomas Kerr P/KX 81825  
L/Sto John Wallace C/KX 75404  
L/Sto George Guest D/KX 90669  
Sto1 Leonard James Brown C/KX 96835  
Sto1 Phillip Shipley C/KX 111361  
Sto1 Kenneth Porteous C/KX 92187  
Sto1 William Jackson D/SKX 1233

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### HMS TALBOT

A member of the crew of the Submarine Depot Ship HMS TALBOT died on Friday 27th February 1942. The full circumstances of his death have not yet been established but it is likely that he was killed in a bombing raid on Malta on that date. Twenty-year old Sub Lieutenant Vyvyan Howard Kelsey was Son of Capt. V. C. M. Kelsey, formerly of the Royal Marines, and Mrs. Kelsey, of Ealing, Middlesex. He is buried in the Malta (Capuccini) Cemetery in Malta in the Protestant Section (Officers) in Plot E, Joint Grave No. 17.

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### SUBMARINE COMMISSIONING CREW LISTS

Commissioning and Re-dedication Crew Lists – are still arriving, thank you very much.  
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'

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### THE DESMOND GERRISH AUTOBIOGRAPHY

(Continued from the January 2022 Issue of Periscope View)

On a Monday's morning, early in March, we wrenched H.M.S. FORTH out of Chatham Dockyard and put out into the Channel for a couple of days and nights post-refit trials, before proceeding down Channel to Portland – for a War Work-up programme.

This is always a grisly time. Portland was the Navy's Assault Course. The Admiral's Staff there put every newly commissioned warship through total war situations at sea, preferably (to them) in bad weather conditions. Over the period of a few weeks, you are constantly attacked by ships, submarines, and aircraft, set on fire, attacked by gas-missiles and nuclear radiation, attacked by underwater swimmers in harbour, ordered to take other ships in tow and ordered to land armed platoons to land on enemy coasts. And, just for fun, from time to time, the Staff would adjudicate that the Captain had been killed – next in command take-over etc. Their favourite time to 'kill off Captain' is when you are re-fuelling at



sea. So, the two giant ships are steaming along very close together, with several huge hoses pumping fuel over from the Tanker, when the 'Staff' first say, "A shell has hit the Bridge killing everyone except the O.O.W. A short pause, and me, the O.O.W., keeping FORTH dead in position steaming alongside the R.F.A. tanker, is then told by the Staff, "Submarine periscope dead ahead."

You know this is coming. Grab the mike and broadcast, "Execute emergency break-away." The tanker stops pumping, as men on FORTH's decks hit the quick-release couplings that release the hose-connections and the tanker cranesmen lift the bights of hoses clear of FORTH. I go to Full Speed Ahead and as soon as FORTH's stern is just ahead of the tanker's bow, start altering course away from the tanker. Everything worked correctly on this occasion. Often things go wrong. Sometimes the quick-release couplings stick, or the tanker is slow to stop the pumps etc. I was thankful nothing fouled up this time.

And Captain S/M was relieved that it was me on Watch when this test was bounced on us, for, with the rest of the Staff in Singapore, I was the only Officer onboard other than the Captain, who had commanded a ship before, albeit H.M.S. WILKIESTON (440 tons) compared to FORTH's 30,000 tons – but the same confidence of handling your ship applies, big or small.

During this busy time at Portland, Ken Martin's elder brother – he'd left the Navy after the war and took up farming in Dorset – died of a heart attack. Quite sudden and unexpected. The Martin brothers were well known, very much liked and respected, by the large Naval population in Dorset and it was no surprise that the Portland Admiral, who had served with Ken's bother during the war, fixed with Admiralty for FORTH's programme, of getting to Singapore, to be delayed for a few days, while the Martin family sorted out their affairs. And we, the Officers in FORTH, realized that Ken Martin had to be protected from over-stress for fear of a heart attack too.

Having passed our 3-week War programme, FORTH sailed up the Channel to Portsmouth, for our last week before sailing to Singapore. Three days' leave was given to half the Crew at a time. The Half-crew not on leave were busy embarking last minute and top-up stores and painting those parts of the ship which had been sullied or scarred during the Portland war games.

My department – the T.A.S. Party – ran the 2 big Torpedo Cranes on FORTH and had to lift 40 private cars onboard, placing them within an inch of each other, on different deck levels, not in the way of guns, lifeboats etc. Admiralty had started this car rush off by authorising the shipment of a new private care purchased by the Commander-in-Chief, Far East. The catalyst for this racket was you could buy a new car in the U.K. – 'DUTY FREE' (about 1/3 the cost) as long as it was kept abroad for one year. Admiralty were in no position to refuse the torrent of requests that followed: Captain S/M., several of the Submarine Officers already in Singapore and, of course, FORTH's own Officers. It all became too nitty and gritty for mighty Admiralty, who used the long-standing let-out of issuing an order, saying 'The matter of private cars being shipped to Singapore is at the sole discretion of the Commanding Officer, H.M.S. FORTH.'

This gave Captain S/M. free drinks for a week before the list was closed, as FORTH's many Officers pleaded for a billet from him. About the middle of the week, Ken sarcastically said to me, "Haven't seen you queuing up with a drink for me, Desmond; not taking a car out?" I gave him the answer he was digging for. "Well, Sir, as it's my men and my cranes that will be loading and off-loading yours and the other cars, as carefully as we can, my men would be very upset if my car wasn't allocated a billet and might lose their concentration in this difficult manoeuvre."

Hazel packed our car full to the roof with stuff to set up house again in Singapore. I drove it to FORTH on the day we were due to sail – the last car to be embarked and my T.A.S. party had kept a snug billet, sheltered from salt spray, on one of the higher decks.

H.M.S. DOLPHIN, Submarine H.Q. and situated right on the narrow entrance to Portsmouth Harbour, made arrangements for the families of FORTH's Crew to wave goodbye to their menfolk. FORTH would pass the entrance at 9:00a.m. Hazel, Sue, and Bill were there, as was Douglas and Sylvia, spending holiday time with us and not too long out of their beds to make this rendezvous. They all waved, and we all waved back, and we were gone.

Something was not quite right with the ship's engines as we nosed into the Channel and prudence directed that we turn round and anchor at Spithead for the night, while the engineers diagnosed the fault. They soon found it. One of our young stokers had smashed a couple of dozen gauges in No.1 Boiler Room – he didn't want to spend 2½ years in Singapore separated from his girlfriend. Same thing had happened back in my days in H.M.S. AISNE when we steamed out of Chatham, bound for Malta.

Like AISNE, nothing else for it, but return to the Dockyard for instant repairs. I went home for the night and announced we would sail again next morning, to be met with a chorus from adults and children saying, "Don't expect another wave-off at breakfast time!". Land lubbers!

We got away this time and completed the first leg of our voyage, Portsmouth to Gibraltar. Refreshing to be at sea again. The stop in Gibraltar for a couple of days allowed last minute items flown from U.K. to be embarked, to-up with fuel and fresh provisions and Crew to stretch legs and throat muscles, free from family ties. Thence to Malta, enjoying a bit of early March sunshine on this leg through the Mediterranean.

The Mediterranean Fleet was scheduled to slim down. The post of Commander-in-Chief, Med. was about to be relinquished after 200 years. The last C.-in-C., was going to fly his Flag in H.M.S. FORTH to visit and say goodbye to the

King of Greece at Athens. Of course, all of this had been programmed back in London long ago and we in FORTH were ready for this job.

Three days in Malta was long enough to service the couple of submarines temporarily detached from home squadrons, for duties with the Med. Fleet. Sufficient time too for C.-in-C.'s domestic staff – Maltese cooks and stewards – to set up camp in Captain S/M's Quarters. Ken had moved into the Commander's suite and the Cdr. had moved into an empty smaller cabin. We also embarked C.-in-C.'s barge – a big, sleek motor cruiser, painted the traditional green, reserved for C.-in-C.s only and gleaming from wax polish.

The best social event for us at Malta was a drinks-laden re-union with the ex-Surgeon Commander of H.M.S. ADAMANT. He had left ADAMANT the same irascible Irish confirmed bachelor who loved his drink, for this appointment to the Malta Naval Hospital and promotion to Surgeon Captain. And, safe with us, his old mates, in FORTH's Wardroom Bar, he dropped his bombshell. He was to be married in two weeks' time! To whom, we all roared – what woman on earth would take you on. She was the Senior Naval Matron of Malta's R.N. Hospital. The first time they met socially, he shared his bottle of Irish whiskey with her and she matched him drink for drink. Well into his mellow cups as the last 2 tots were consumed, he nearly fell from his chair when he heard her boom, "My round now" as she stormed to the Bar for double whiskeys. Doc. had met his match. They married and, presumably, lived happily ever after!

C.-in-C. embarked at 0855, and at 0900 on the dot, we sailed out of Malta's Grand Harbour, bound for Athens. It was a 3-day trip at FORTH's stately speed and the Admiral met us all informally as we gave FORTH a final 'spit and polish' during the trip. He and Ken worked on the detail of the forthcoming State Functions – for FORTH, a Cocktail Party for a huge number of Athens' elite, including their Royal Family (the King was a cousin of Prince Philip) and a very formal Dinner next day for the King and his Government.

Captain S/M – Ken Martin – had used his influence with those Officers in Admiralty who planned the movements of the Navy's ships and, when planning FORTH's move to Singapore, persuaded them to allocate a full week's stay in Athens, despite the fact that C.-in-C. Med. had already stated he only required 3 days in Athens for his programme. So, the Admiralty Planners fixed with the R.A.F. to fly C.-in-C. back to Malta and programmed FORTH to remain at Athens for a further 4 days. All this wheeling and dealing because Ken had just finished being Naval Attaché with the British Embassy in Athens for 2½ years before being appointed Captain of FORTH. And he had made a lot of influential pro-British friends, not only in Athens, but from all over Greece. He wanted free time to see them again, sometimes him entertaining them in FORTH, but mostly their entertaining him – and some of us – in their homes or favourite Tabernas.

At this point, I have to introduce Ben, Ken's eldest son. Aged 18, finished school and waiting to start University, he was free to join FORTH's trip to Singapore. Accommodation was plentiful since cabins for Submarine Officers remained empty until we reached Singapore. Ken placed him under the Commander's charge, to be given duties as for a Midshipman during our voyage. Ken and Joyce Martin had reared all 4 of their sons to be 'free thinkers', particularly not to be slaves to convention, if any specific convention or rule was not commonsense. A few days out of Portsmouth was enough for Ben to deduce that out of all FORTH's Officers, I was the only one to challenge convention or petty rules if they were non-sensible. So, he attached himself to me as his 'friendly unofficial Guardian'. Ken and the Commander went along with this, just occasionally dropping dark hints of what would befall us, if I led Ben into bad ways! There had been a couple of bad shaves when Ben returned, not entirely sober, with me and my cronies during runs ashore at Gib. and Malta, late at night, but mercifully, Ben unseen by his father or the Commander as we scurried aboard. Not so at Athens. A group of us, including Ben, had accepted the invitation of Metal Box, a British Company with factories in Athens, to a night out at one of Athens' best Tabernas, at the Company's expense.

A wonderful night. Delicious Greek food, bucketful of Retsina wine, a vibrant Greek Band, attractive and nubile Greek Belly Dancers. We joined in the dancing and the traditional smashing of dinner plates etc. In short, we had a Ball! It was way past 2 a.m. before anything slowed up. Ben's 'Midshipman's' rules dictated he be back onboard by midnight. The group of us decided our best course of action was to smuggle Ben back onboard even later, to ensure Ken and the Commander were asleep. So we dawdled to the docks and drank nightcaps at the Fishermen's Bars –open all night – until 4 a.m., by which time we had persuaded some friendly fishermen to take us out to FORTH's anchorage in Athens Bay, in their fishing smack.

We crept up FORTH's accommodation ladder quietly, to be met at the top by Ken and the Commander, still in full Evening Dress Uniform – the C.-in-C.'s Royal Dinner Party had only just broken up before our arrival – bad timing on our part. Why do the Greeks stay up so late? Ben was greeted with a curt "Get to your bed immediately and report to me in the morning" from his father. I was told to proceed forthwith to the Commander's Cabin. Captain and Commander followed very shortly after – the 3 of us sitting in armchairs – them, to begin with pouring themselves nightcaps and discussing what punishment they could inflict on me. They kept this charade up for about five minutes, before they burst out laughing, poured me a very generous quantity of brandy and asked for details of our night out.

Ken knew the Taberna – it was one of his favourite haunts. He had hoped to have joined us, naively thinking C.-in-C.'s would have finished by midnight – what a hope.

On another night, most of FORTH's Officers attended a Cocktail Party for us at the British Embassy. There were several private invitations to dinner from the gathering of Athens' residents at the Drinks Party and a small group of us accepted

to go home for dinner with the Reuters Correspondent – an American with an English wife. Lovely home. A good dinner and lively party after dinner. My host, talking to me, established that Hazel was abandoned back at home until after FORTH got to Singapore. “We will give her a call,” he said; grabbed a ‘phone and in an instant I was speaking to Hazel – at 3 a.m. in the middle of the night – Alverstoke time!

International ‘phone networks in those days were very thin on the ground, complicated to arrange – you booked a call for a selected time ahead and hoped the chain of foreign speakers would all link up at your appointed time – and very expensive. He, being a Reuters Newsman, clearly had a permanent chain of phone links paid for by Reuters. Hazel was not amused, but relieved to learn the cost of the call was being borne by my host.

One of the Med.’s submarines, on patrol in this area, came alongside for a few days, for a brief rest and stock-up, which did us all good to work with a submarine again.

Our next leg was to Aden, via the Suez Canal. Egypt was still a member of the Communist Bloc but allowed ships to transit the Suez Canal. Russia had supplied Nasser with up-to-date missiles to defend the Canal if the Western Allies threatened to occupy the Canal Zone again. We were the first British Warship allowed through the Canal since Nasser had kicked the British out of Egypt back in the 1950s.

So, as the Canal Pilots boarded FORTH in Suez Harbour, another bloke came aboard with them, in plain clothes – the Naval Attaché from our Embassy in Turkey. He briefed us on what to spy for as we transited the Canal and left again before we left Suez port.

**To be continued in the March 2022 Issue of Periscope View.**

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Harry Summerton E Mail 6th January 2011

Hello Barrie,

Do hope all is well with you and your family and may I wish you all the very best for 2022.

In the recent issue of “In Depth” I note that a plaque is being unveiled in honour of the above gentleman at Carluke in May. Very well deserved.

As a “titbit” of interest you might like to know the following as I knew him very well, quite personally in fact, let me explain.

I joined submarines in November 1948. After training I was shunted off to Chatham to join “TRUCULENT” then in dockyard refit, then, as I was keen as mustard, and, luckily for me, I was drafted to “VERNON” for a TD3 Course. On completion, I was off to Malta to join the 1st Submarine Squadron, H M S/M “TRUMP” (see front page photo). The Commanding Officer at that time was Lieutenant Commander Murray-Jones. The crew was a mix of wartime submariners, who wanted out but could not leave because of the Korean War, and other disgruntled chaps. However, we were a reasonably happy bunch.

Soon, a new skipper took over, Lieutenant Commander Don Cameron VC. Things changed! Captain S/M was none other than “Gamp” Miers VC! Don “cleared lower deck” said a few words and soon we had one of the best crews I have ever served with!

I was 18, he “appointed” me his “batman”. Looking after him at sea and in harbour, in Malta and on cruises. Knowing that I was a Commissioned Warrant candidate, he made me “swot up” and regularly tested me. We were often on the bridge together and he would ask me “navigational or seamanship” questions. He had a degree of kindness and understanding, and I often asked him for help on very personal family matters. I sometimes felt “lost” as I had left home at just under 16 years of age to join the Navy! He was always there to help.

At this time, I knew nothing of his wartime service nor would I have dared to ask. Later, I studied his career and was amazed and thrilled that I had ever known such a man. I never saw him again as I was invalided from the Service in 1961.

I am an Associate Member of the Royal Military Police Association and, some time ago, once met his “brother” or “cousin” who is a high-ranking officer in the Organisation. He was quite thrilled that I knew Don.

Now, I am now coming up for 92 and extremely proud to have spent some time of my Service career in submarines.

I had to leave this great select Service to take part in the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who incidentally, paid a visit to HM S/M “TRUMP” with Princess Margaret whilst in Malta way back then!

Hope you found this interesting!!

Sincere regards,

Harry Summerton

(Ex-Chairman - Sussex Branch)

By Editor:

I forwarded Harry’s story to NMC Member Sandy Powell who is organizing the Cameron VC Blue Plaque in Carluke. Sandy has contacted Harry and he has been invited to the unveiling

**SUBMARINERS 'CROSSED THE BAR' REPORTED JANUARY 2022**

Branch	Date	Name	Rank/Rating	Official Number	Age	Submarine Service
Non-member	8th December 2021	Stephen Hadgkiss	TBA	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service in ALLIANCE (10th January 1972 to 18th March 1973) & OCELOT (24th January to 18th March 1973)
Non-member	4th January 2022	Peter (Jan) Berry	Petty Officer Stores Accountant	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service from 1966 to 1978 in RESOLUTION (S) (1st Commission Crew) on 3rd October 1967, CONQUEROR & VALIANT
Non-member	7th January 2022	Iain B Reid	Chief Control Electrician	TBA	85	Submarine Service in REVENGE (S) (1st Commission Crew) on 4th December 1969 & REVENGE (S) (on recommissioning in Aug/Sep 1975)
Non-member	13th January 2022	'Buster' Browne	Leading Writer	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service including CHURCHILL
Ex-Merseyside Branch	14th January 2022	Paul William (Sticky) Hartley	Leading Ordnance Electrical Mechanic	P072435	74	Submarine Service from 1966 to 1974 in CACHALOT (1966 to 1969) & SEALION (1969 to 1974 (3rd Commission))
Non-member	16th January 2022	John B (Happy) Haywood	Radio Operator (SM)	TBA	64	Submarine Service from January 1977 to March 1982 in ORACLE & OTTER (on commissioning on 17th May 1980)
Wales Branch	16th January 2022	Michael J Taylor	Chief Radio Supervisor	J925209V	85	Submarine Service from 1966 to 1976 in OPOSSUM & FINWHALE
Gosport Branch	17th January 2022	Clive Gregory Cooper	Petty Officer MEM	K975133L	83	Submarine Service from 1958 to 1979 in RORQUAL, AMBUSH, TEREDO, TOTEM on 'Commissioning' at Gosport on 23rd January 1963, TALENT, TOKEN, TRUMP on 'Commissioning' in 1965, GRAMPUS & PORPOISE
North Staffs Branch	20th January 2022	Selwyn Andrew Rushton	Leading Stoker	D/KX 894734	89	Submarine Service from July 1954 to June 1958 in TIPTOE
Non-member	22nd January 2022	Anthony (Tony) Janku	Electrical Artificer	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service in DREADNOUGHT (1st Commission)
Non-member	23rd January 2022	Colin Braxton Moore	Lieutenant Commander (WESM)	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service from 1966 to 1989 in OBERON, DOLPHIN, ORPHEUS, DOLPHIN, AUWE, NEPTUNE, CUWA & MoD
Exeter Branch	24th January 2022	David Edge	Petty Officer Cook	D050338G	80	Submarine Service from 1967 to 1981 in REPULSE (P) (1st Commission September 1968, RESOLUTION, WARSPITE on recommissioning in November 1973, SOVEREIGN, SPLENDID (1st Commission Crew) on 21st March 1981 & VALIANT
Non-Member	24th January 2022	R (Ronnie) Boyd	TBA	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service in AURIGA, CACHAOT, OPPORTUNE & OBERON
Gosport Branch	27th January 2022	A J (Andy) Verdi	Chief Petty Officer Coxswain	J978686W	81	Submarine Service from 1959 to 1979 in SENESCHAL, ACHERON, TIPTOE, WALRUS, AMBUSH, AENEAS, OTTER, NARWHAL, ONYX, OLYMPUS & RESOLUTION