



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: The Submariner Memorial at the National Arboretum

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,

June already? Nearly halfway through the year so soon! Well, what did we do in May? Firstly, we had our slightly delayed Annual General Meeting, immediately followed by the May Branch meeting. There was a lot of business to get through and many decisions to be made but all went smoothly. Dave Smith discusses everything which was covered and agreed in his Secretary's Report.

You will notice from the details above that there have been quite a few changes in the Branch Officers. Our President, Alan Hoskins, stood down however, he is now one of the Committee Members. In addition, the other Committee members now include Steve May, Les Hambling with Peter Hearn as the new Rum Bosun. Dickie Cambridge also stood down as Branch Chairman with Steve McKay taking over in his place and Mark Butchart is Vice Chairman. No changes to the Treasurer, Social Secretary, Slops Manager or Website Manager. I continue as the Newsletter Editor and the Branch also very kindly elected me as the new Branch President.

Our main event in May was the Branch Dinner at the Brown Cow in Dalton at which Dickie Cambridge was a Branch Guest – as were myself & Margaret – thank you to everyone for that honour!

What else in this Issue? The Cover picture this month is a view of the newly unveiled Submariner Memorial at the National Arboretum. Several Branch Members had planned to be at the National Arboretum on 18th May to take part in the Ceremonies for the Unveiling of the new National Submariners Memorial. In the event Alex was unable to attend to carry our Branch Standard owing to unexpected circumstances. Also, very disappointingly, Margaret and I were unable to attend as a Guests of the Memorial Committee (doctor's orders) but I am assured that the spare places went to other very deserving Submariners. However, Dave Smith was there to represent the Barrow Branch and he has provided a report on the proceedings and has copied photographs of the events to go with his report.

As I said last month, bearing in mind it was only just over three years ago that this Project was started off at the 2019 NCC, it is quite a remarkable achievement for the organisers to have raised some half a million Pounds, chosen and designed the Memorial, had it made, got it installed and unveiled by our Commodore in Chief in a moving Ceremony. Everyone involved in whatever capacity - including all those who have contributed can give themselves a big pat on the back.

To match in with unveiling the new Memorial an 'On-Line Book Of Remembrance' (OBOR) has been created on the SMF Website (also available via QR Code) to tell the stories of all those all lost in RN Submarines whilst on Duty - in peace and war. This OBOR has been funded by the Friends of the Submarine Museum and lists some 5,900 names of those lost in service in Submarines and has been created in conjunction with 'Mindworks' and the 'Friends' - a small Team of whose Members have researched and populated the OBOR. This OBOR can be updated continuously as new information comes to hand and corrects many errors and omissions found in the data on the Submarine Museum 'Wall of Remembrance' - which will also be replaced with a new physical version in due course – also funded by the 'Friends'. As ever, you will find all the usual items in this Newsletter – Branch plans for June, July & August, Branch Members Birthdays, Submarine Casualties of WWII, Remembering Former Branch Members, Submariners Crossed the Bar – a very long list this month, and the Desmond Gerrish Story is continued!

That's about it for now – don't forget the June Branch Meeting on Tuesday 7th June but, again, this will start at 1900 – as the Secretary also reminds you – as we have guests - a visit from a team from The Submarine Family to brief us on the new arrangements and to answer your questions – once again a lot to get through so. can we have a good turn-out of Branch Members? and – don't be late!

PS. In case you want to check anything the OBOR QR Code is as follows:-



Best Regards
Barrie

SECRETARY'S DIT

Hello Everyone

All Emails and associated correspondence have been distributed to members throughout the month.

Correspondence.

There were several emails sent to and received from the NMC about the 14 May EGM and the concerns raised by the Branch on, the holding of the meeting at short notice and not complying with the requirements of the R&C with regards to the notice to be given for expenditure above 500 pounds, the contracting of Mindworks to produce the SA Website and Membership database and GDPR. The NMC responded acknowledging the Branch concerns. A statement was readout by the Secretary at the start of the EGM objecting to the meeting.

"The Barrow Branch wish to make a point of order. They do not agree with the argument put forward to hold this meeting today. They believe that it is in contravention of the timeframe set out in Clause 11(b)(iv) of the Rules and Constitution.

Whilst Clause 5(e) does not have any time constraints, the case for the proposal is based on the argument that it is important and in the interest of the Association, (Clause 5(e)(i)), that the proposal is adopted. However, as the proposal has a financial implication it is inextricably linked to Clause 11(b)(iv). Which puts into the NMC Standing Orders and therefore fails the test of Clause 5e(ii). Clause 5(e) requires both elements to be met.

The Barrow Branch respectfully ask for the meeting to be postponed until the requirements of Clause 11 (b)(iv) can be met allowing adequate time for the Branches to fully examine the proposal and raise any queries prior to making a final decision on the proposal.

Should the meeting go ahead it should not be seen as precedence for forcing proposals through outwith the Rules and Constitution."

However, it did continue, and the motions raised were voted against by the Branch but were carried on a majority. All the emails and the minutes from the EGM have been circulated to Branch Members.

a. Emails from National Secretary –

Reference Membership.

During this transitional period the Interim method for processing 'new members' will be as follows. Follow usual procedures in the branch, review service docs etc.. Fill out the Google form link below after subs have been paid.

Wherever possible please pay subs directly into the SA account.

<https://forms.gle/934x8kHAti6mrJ2LA>

Upon receipt I will allocate a membership number and apply for a membership card which when received will be posted to the branch secretary.

Email from National Secretary- Reference 16 July EGM Agenda.

The NMC are meeting next Sunday 29th May on Zoom to discuss the agenda for the EGM which will be held on Zoom on 16th July. The agenda will then be forwarded to Branch Secretaries in plenty of time for them to get it out to their members.

Please note there is no deadline for the Chairman to call an EGM (Clause 5 (e) i & ii).

Email from National Secretary Cameron VC Blue Plaque and photographs of the dedication ceremony for the Cameron VC Blue Plaque at Carlisle in Lanarkshire

Email National Secretary- requesting ideas of where the old SM Memorial plaques at the National Arboretum could be placed.

The responses received so far from the Branch members have been forwarded to the National Secretary.

b. **Email Nation Chairman – Reference Membership Fees**

At the AGM we sought agreement from the members to join TSF and cease paying annual subs (2022 subs had already been paid). As Interim Chairman on the 26 April 2022 I signed the contract with TSF to officially join when TSF when it is launched is launched.

To clarify. We will not be requesting members to pay the National subscription for 2023.

Any person who subsequently joins TSF -be it signing up to the SA, Friends of the Museum, BIB's (the families) or any combination from now will not have to pay but invited to make a donation to the TSF.

It is expected that the TSF website will go live on Monday 16 May 22 (it did!). On that website will be a link to join either the SA, Friends of the Museum and We Remember Submariners or - if you choose - all three!

If you do not have a computer, you would have to rely on friends or family.

The reason being TSF Website revolves around the posting of up-to-date information. As things move on views change then so will the menu and links on the website.

The Submariners Association is now a full member of TSF.

There are many points and procedures that the NMC have to clarify then inform members of the way ahead.

A few points that I can assure you are in place.

1. No more annual fees will be charged by the National
2. New joiners will not be charged to join the SA but invited to make a donation.
3. TSF Website is up and running
4. The SA Website is being built as we speak
5. Branch and individual requests for assistance is available via the TSF Website

Actions outstanding.

A. Establish the procedures for the association and branches to formulate their annual grant

B. Review and rename the old R&C

c. **Branch Secretary – Lapsed Members:**

An email was sent to all lapsed members informing them of their position and requesting they renew their membership or let the Secretary know if they no longer wish to remain in the Branch or Association.

2. **Branch AGM and Monthly Meeting**

The Branch AGM took place at the monthly meeting where our new Chairman Steve McKay was voted in along with Barrie Downer as President, Les Hambling and Alan Hoskins as committee members and Peter Hearn took up the role as Rum Bosun. Thanks were given to Richard Cambridge, Alan Hoskins and Jeff Thomas for their enduring support throughout their tenure as Chairman, President and Rum Bosun.

A vote was also taken to increase the Members Representatives on the committee from two to three.

At the May monthly meeting it was highlighted that May 2023 will see the 60th Anniversary year of the Barrow Branch. For the 50th Anniversary the Branch set up a Sub Committee, raised some funds and arranged quite a few events to mark the occasion. Do we wish to do the same for next year? To be discussed at next Committee meeting.

In the absence of National Subscriptions, the raising of Branch Subscription from January 2023 to £10 for full members was discussed. Associated Membership subscription will remain at £5 pounds. This is to give the Branch more flexibility in supporting members and their families in these times of hardship for many. The meeting agreed with the proposal. It was also suggested that people could leave their Standing Order as £20. However, it was pointed out that not everyone would be able to afford it. The details of the rise with the voluntary option to leave the Standing Order at £20 will be circulated with the next Newsletter. The Branch subscription will rise to £10 from January 2023.

3. **Branch Committee Meeting**

A Branch Committee meeting was held to discuss the Branches response to the National EGM held on 14 May (see above). The conclusions from the meeting were:

There was a general feeling that the Association was ill prepared to join TSF from the outset and that many of the current issues are related to poor communication and hasty reactions by the NMC. Should more time have been given to consider the options then a smoother transition could have taken place. However, haste and stating, 'we can always leave if it does not work', is no excuse for the non-adherence to the Association R&C. Other have declared their support to the SF without joining, which they may do so in the future.

Questions were raised on the Aims and Objectives of the Association as it appears the Remembrance has been removed. Is this correct and is the SF going to take over the running of the November event?

The Committee agreed that any assessment of the impact of the SF on the Association would have to wait until after the presentation as the next meeting by the SF PR Team.

A Vote of No Confidence in the NMC was discussed at the end of the meeting. It was uncertain whether it should be the NMC or the Chairman that should be made the subject of No Confidence. The committee was asked to go away and think about the options and the consequences of such an action. In addition, we would have to find, and Second, should we want to put this through at the EGM on 16th July. We have until the 4th June (6 weeks from the EGM) to achieve this. Is there another way of demonstrating our disapproval of the NMC behaviour over the issues discussed? The following motions have been forwarded to all Branch Secretaries to seek a Second, so they can be put on the agenda for the 16 July EGM.

Sent to all Branch Secretaries:

Please see below recommendations from the Barrow Branch to the Association's Rules and Constitution. The Barrow is seeking another Branch to second the Recommendations by 4 June, to facilitate inclusion in the Agenda for the National EGM planned for the 16 July.

The justification for these Recommendations is as follows:

1. **The Act of Remembrance** - This is omitted from the current R&Cs of the SA yet it is a commitment of the SA and one which must be continued well into the foreseeable future. Within TSF paperwork there will have to be a similar alteration to reflect this change.

A minor point is that no other element of TSF can fulfil this commitment.

2. **Vote of No Confidence** - It is only the absence of such guidance that has prevented the Barrow Branch from raising a proposal for a Motion of No Confidence following the recent EGM when both the Chairman and the NMC breached their own rules.

The following changes to the National R&C are proposed:

SA EGM Agenda

1. **Annual Act of Remembrance**

Clause 2 of the R&Cs to be amended to include:

Insert new para(c) and renumber current paras (c, d, e)

New para (c) To read:

To organise and conduct the Annual Act of Remembrance at or near to the Submarine Memorial in London.

2. **Vote of No Confidence**

Insert new Clause 12

Should the situation arise where it is felt that there is no confidence in the Chairman of the NMC, members of the NMC or both then a Vote of No Confidence may be tabled by a Branch. Any Branch wishing to raise a Motion of No Confidence must have at least one other Branch seconding the motion. The motion must be made in writing and passed to the Secretary for onward circulation.

The discussion around the vote should be at either the AGM if that is within a suitable timeframe or at an EGM to be held within 6 weeks of the NMC circulating the details of the motion to all Branches. Such an EGM may be held using Zoom or another form of video conferencing. The number of Branches participating to be a minimum forming a quorum of the NMC as per Clause 5 (c) (i) and (ii).

A majority of two-thirds of the Branches' voting is required to pass such a motion. If a motion fails, then the Proposing Branch and Seconding Branch cannot raise a similar motion until after 3 years from the vote has passed.

If such a motion is passed, then the subject of the motion must consider the consequences of the No-Confidence Motion and act in the best interests of the Association. Any specific desired consequence must be included in the details and justification of the motion by the proposing Branch.

If you wish to Second, the above Recommendations please forward your response to me at the earliest opportunity.

Regards

David A J Smith

Barrow Branch Secretary

SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

Hi Shipmates

May be and gone, most notable social event was our 59th birthday party at the Brown Cow, Dalton. Only managed to get 22 people to attend but those 22 were party animals. Had a great evening, great food and it turns out the old Chairman Dickie can speak French – who knew??

Before I continue you must all be aware the price of fuel has increased and that obviously that has put a big increase in the cost of running these trips. So when I say how much it is going to cost this is the bare minimum I can charge with a full coach to stand a chance of breaking even.

I had planned a trip out to the Brew House in Morecambe to meet up with our buddies there for Saturday 25th June. Unfortunately, owing to lack of support I have had to cancel this outing due to the cost of the coach. 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 £20 each for the return coach trip – the ticket for your entry will be extra cost to you. See you at the meeting.

Yours Aye
Alex

JUNE 2022 BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting Tues 7th Jun
Committee Meeting As Required

JULY 2022 BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting Tues 5th Jul
Cartmel Races Sat 16th Jul
Committee Meeting As Required

AUGUST 2022 BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting Tues 2nd Aug
Committee Meeting As Required

JUNE BRANCH BIRTHDAYS

G.A. (George) Plater	03/06/1944
B.R. (Slosh) Riley	03/06/1934
P. (Patricia) Bell	05/06/1938
R. (Richard) Usher	08/06/1990
S (Sue) Smith	08/06/1955
A.I. (Carl) Haythornthwaite	09/06/1937
A. (Tony) Nolan	12/06/1965
C. (Chris) Brown	17/06/1947
R. (Bob) Palmer	17/06/1939
M. (Martin) Law	21/06/1978
B.K. (Barrie) Downer	23/06/1945
D. (Derek) Pallister	29/06/1954
A. (Tony) Griffiths	29/06/1950

RESURGAM

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REMEMBERING FORMER BARROW BRANCH MEMBERS

Frank Arthur Rewell	1969
George Chantrell	1981
Thomas Herriot	1986
George Hughes	1986
Peter Weeks	2007
Claude Roberts	2011
Alfie Hines	2016

Eric Hamer	2018
Colin Hutchinson	2019
Alan Derek Jones	2021

RESURGAM

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 frozenorth55@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 June for the July 2022 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 JUNE 1942

One Submarine was lost in June 1942 and six other Submariners died.

Submarine HMS P514 was lost on 21st June 1942 whilst on passage from Argentia to St Johns, Newfoundland escorted by the Corvette PRIMROSE. The Minesweeper HMCS GEORGIAN (Lieutenant Commander Stanley, RCN) was waiting to pick up a convoy to be escorted to Sydney, Cape Breton Island. GEORGIAN sighted P514 in the early hours and, not being aware that there was an Allied Submarine in the area Stanley rammed and sank P514. The Submarine was lost with all hands. Submarine P514 was one of a number of old US Navy Submarines which had been loaned to the Royal Navy. In US Navy service, the Submarine was designated as Submarine R19. The loss of Submarine P514 is commemorated on a plaque in the Church of St Mary at Swinbrook in Oxfordshire. The Plaque reads *'To the honoured memory of the Officers and Ships Company of HM Submarine P514'*.

The majority of the crew of Submarine P514 were members of a party of 23 Officers & 112 Ratings who took passage in SS CHATEAU THIERRY from Gourock to New York from 4th to 16th February 1942.

The crew of HM S/M P514 when lost consisted of the following personnel:

Officers:

Lt Cdr Richard Michael Eames Pain RN
Lt Walter Augustus Phillimore RN
Temp Lt C A Bentley RNR
Temp Lt Joseph Taylor RN
Temp Lt (E) J F Magil, RCN

Ratings:

PO James McAlister P/SSX 15157
PO Harry Henwood Bowden D/JX 140944
Ldg Sea James Gillan P/JX 144930
Ldg Sea Reginald Francis Burgess J113499
AB George Robert Mason C/JX 235233
AB Arthur William Stanley Chambers J95485
AB David Reginald Wilson C/JX 152747
AB William Henry Gilbert Worlock P/JX 127791
AB Richard William Walter Powell P/SSX 25448
AB George Beal P/JX 204924
AB George Laing P/JX 272526
AB Ronald William Allen P/JX 157893
AB Leonard Nelson England D/SSX 20438
AB Herbert Goodwin D/JX 204300
AB Frank Holt D/JX 200550
Ord Sea Albert Edward Lidstone P/JX 200114
PO Tel Richard Harris Carter C/JX 139509
Tel Frederick Charles Ward C/JX 157848
Tel Arthur Musgrave D/SSX 31922
Tel Hugh Patterson D/JX 156607
Ldg Sig Thomas Barron C/JX 145688
ERA Cyril Tall D/MX 49836
ERA Jack Maurice Steele D/MX 7576
ERA Norman Cyril Bennett C/MX 68816
SPO Bruce James Black C/KX 75061
SPO John Gray K58483
L/Sto Ronald Stanley James C/KX 90535
L/Sto James Landless Binns, MiD C/KX 87964
AL/Sto George Dickson P/KX 84898
AL/Sto James Ronald McDowall P/KX 85897

Sto1 Thomas Battensby C/KX 114345
Sto1 Edward Curran C/KX 115867
Sto1 John Ross Milford C/KX 85065
Sto1 Anthony Frederick Barnes C/KX 132331
Sto1 William John Dawson C/KX 134744
Sto1 Francis Bakis C/KX 134670
Sto1 Robert Murray C/KX 134458

The six other Submariners who died were members of the crew of the Barrow Built Submarine Depot Ship **HMS MEDWAY** when the ship was torpedoed and sunk in the Mediterranean on Tuesday 30th June 1942. They were:

Ratings:

CPO Thomas Quaipe J93794
Ldg Sea Kenneth Gordon Coates J94731
AB Albert Tarbuck J31444
AB Rennie Sutcliffe C/JX 207986
Sto2 Frederick William Bradbury D/KX 138547
Sto2 Walter Eden D/KX 134890

SUBMARINE COMMISSIONING CREW LISTS

Commissioning, De-commissioning and Re-dedication Crew Lists – are still wanted, 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

Dedication Ceremony of the new Submarine Memorial at the National Arboretum, 18 May 2022.

It was a warm and sunny day for the dedication of the new Memorial by HRH Duke of Cambridge. The National Arboretum staff put on a warm welcome with the Aspects Building used as a reception for the invited guests. Other submariner veterans were also there showing their support for service and the day – Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce, Admirals Sir James Perowne & James Burnell-Nugent and Rear Admiral Kilgour, our SA President, were amongst the many dignitaries present.

On arrival guests were checked in and given wrist bands to facilitate entry into the enclosed area and Aspects Building. Tea and coffee were served whilst waiting for the proceedings to commence. Many took the opportunity to stroll through the grounds to view the new Memorial before the ceremony. It stood splendidly in the Arboretum grounds with its black coat encircled in a red ribbon ready to be cut. On one side of the memorial are the Submariners' Dolphins with the immortal words of Winston Churchill '*Of all the branches of men in the forces there is none which shows more devotion and faces grimmer perils than the submariners*'. On other side is a moulded picture representing the Submarine families, which was very much the theme of the day. Standing tall between the two segments of the memorial is The Submariner in an image that many would associate as the traditional Submariner.

A Royal Marine Band entertained the guests as they assembled at the memorial with lots of handshakes and hugs between old and familiar friends as they greeted each other. Once seated, Commodore Jim Perks CBE, Commodore Submarine Service and Chair of The Submarine Family gave a brief welcome before 'Marching on the Standards'. After a brief pause HRH Duke of Cambridge arrived and proceedings commenced.

A Service of Dedication was read out highlighting the 120 years of the Submarine Service and the sacrifice made by so many in the service of protecting the nations interests and the ethos unique within the armed services. It also recognised the sacrifice and suffering of the Submariner's family. The day was as much about the family as it was about the men and women of the service. Ten children of the Royal Navy Family and People Support Youth Forum, Scotland read out their thoughts and feelings on the impact of their parent being away on a submarine. This culminated in poem written and read by Jacob, aged 12 'This is normal for me'

Readings, Prayers, Naval Hymn, and blessing followed. Vice Admiral Peter Wilkinson addressed the assembly outlining the efforts made by several people to get the Memorial ready for the day. He then invited the Duke of Cambridge to say a few words and formally open the Memorial. The Duke of Cambridge acknowledged the importance and continued dedication of the Submarine Service to the Nations security and that it cannot be achieved without the professionalism of those who serve, the technical support of industrial partners and sacrifice of those who are left at home and that the Monument expresses that sentiment in its's form.

The winners of the design competition were invited to accompany the Duke of Cambridge to cut the ribbon. A photo opportunity followed for the press and television before the Duke of Cambridge and invited guest retired to the Aspect Building for lunch and discussion with the guests. The Standards were marched off once the Duke of Cambridge had left the assembly. Commodore Perks addressed the guests and thanked them for their attendance and gave a special thanks to Tom Herman for his efforts and management to not only for the day but his drive to raise the funds, organising the design competition, finding a designer and successfully get the monument built.

Many of the guests took time view the Memorial and to take photographs. The Standard Bearers mustered at the Memorial which allowed the Submariners Association to be focal point in many of the follow up pictures.

The service went without a hitch and the weather held to make it an enjoyable day for all. As the South Atlantic Falklands memorial was on the way to the New Submarine Memorial many paused to pay their respects to those who had fallen 40 years ago.



HRH The Duke of Cambridge dedicates the Submariner Memorial



**The Submariner Memorial 1
The Families**



Commodore Jim PERKS CBE



**The Submariner Memorial 2
The Churchill Quotation**



The Submariner Memorial 3



The Standard Bearers

US Navy Commissions USS OREGON (SSN 793)

28 May 2022

The U S Navy commissioned the fast-attack submarine USS OREGON (SSN 793) in a traditional ceremony held Saturday, May 28, at Naval Submarine Base New London.



“Oregonians are deeply honored that the 20th Virginia-class submarine will bear the name of our state,” said Gov. Kate Brown of Oregon, the ceremony’s keynote speaker. The Memorial Day Weekend event for USS OREGON – the second of the Block IV Virginia-class subs – represented the first in-person submarine commissioning ceremony since the commissioning of the USS SOUTH DAKOTA (SSN 790) on Feb. 2, 2019.

“This is the first in-person commissioning ceremony of a submarine in more than three years, and that’s a long time to delay celebrations like this one,” Tommy Ross, performing the duties of Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, told the assembled audience Saturday, adding: “As we honor the fallen this Memorial Day Weekend, I’d also like to remember the many service members who made the ultimate sacrifice to keep this great nation free.” Because of restrictions on large gatherings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 commissionings of USS VERMONT (SSN 792) and USS DELAWARE (SSN 791) were completed administratively, with ceremonies held at later dates in 2021 and 2022 to celebrate the milestones retroactively.

SSN 793 is the third U.S. Navy ship launched to bear the name OREGON, but first in more than a century. The first, named after the OREGON Territory before OREGON became a state, was a brigantine in service from 1841-1845. The second was an Indiana-class battleship commissioned in 1896 and ultimately decommissioned for the final time in 1919. “As we commission OREGON today, the torch is passed from our storied naval history to the present,” said Ross. “First a brig bearing the name OREGON served as an exploration vessel in the mid-19th century, and later as an Indiana-class battleship, OREGON served in the Spanish-American War and helped destroy (famed Spanish Adm. Pascual Cervera y Topete’s) fleet. Today, OREGON breaks her flag again and returns to sea, reborn as an extraordinarily capable fast-attack submarine.”

USS OREGON is 377 feet long, has a 34-foot beam and is able to dive to depths greater than 800 feet and operate at speeds in excess of 25 knots. She has a crew of nearly 140 Navy personnel. “The passion, grit and enthusiasm of OREGON’s crew has carried the ship to sea and were vital to the completion of construction and testing,” said Cmdr. Lacy Lodmell, commanding officer of USS OREGON. “I have been deeply honored to see you grow into a team that is ready to undertake any mission we are assigned. This is without a doubt the finest crew I have ever had the pleasure to serve with.”

The submarine OREGON was previously christened in a traditional ceremony at General Dynamics Corp.’s Electric Boat shipyard in Groton, Connecticut, on Oct. 5, 2019. Dana L. Richardson, the wife of former Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson, is the ship sponsor. During Saturday’s commissioning event, Dana Richardson gave the crew the traditional order to “man our ship and bring her to life,” after which OREGON’s Sailors ceremonially ran aboard the submarine.

Fast-attack submarines are multi-mission platforms enabling five of the six Navy maritime strategy core capabilities – sea control, power projection, forward presence, maritime security, and deterrence. They are designed to excel in anti-submarine warfare, anti-ship warfare, strike warfare, special operations, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, irregular warfare, and mine warfare. Fast-attack submarines project power ashore with special operations forces and Tomahawk cruise missiles in the prevention or preparation of regional crises. “OREGON and the other Virginia-class submarines will not only sustain, but exploit our edge in undersea warfare,” said Adm. Frank Caldwell, director of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, at the Saturday ceremony. “Soon OREGON will employ her stealth, her flexibility, her superior firepower and her endurance to travel silently throughout the world’s oceans undetected, collecting intelligence, preparing for battle and – if necessary – striking from the deep swiftly without warning to answer the nation’s call.”

Block IV Virginia-class submarines incorporate design changes focused on reduced total ownership cost. By making these smaller-scale design changes to increase the component-level lifecycle of the submarine, the Navy will increase the periodicity between depot maintenance availabilities and increase the number of deployments.

Blocks I-III Virginia-class submarines are planned to undergo four depot maintenance availabilities and conduct 14 deployments. Block IV design changes are intended to reduce planned availabilities by one to three and increase deployments to 15. Other speakers at the commissioning ceremony included Kevin Graney, president of General Dynamics Corp.’s Electric Boat shipyard, as well as U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal and U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney of Connecticut. The master of ceremonies was Lt. Cmdr. Collin Hedges, executive officer of the USS OREGON.

THE DESMOND GERRISH AUTOBIOGRAPHY

(Continued from the May 2022 Issue of Periscope View)

One of FORTH’s families – the Grimshaws (he was the Supply Commander) – were on an Island Weekend, when one of their children was bitten by a scorpion, fortunately during the Sunday afternoon, so they didn’t have long to wait for the boat to mainland Malaya. A fast drive to the Services Hospital in Singapore and the anti-dote administered on arrival, so all was well. Afterwards the Doctor, chatting to the Grimshaws, said scorpions lived as man and wife, so if one had entered the tent, the mate would have done so too. Mrs. Grimshaw had their camping luggage unloaded from their car and, sure enough, there was the second scorpion hiding in her husband’s coat!

In 1967 the British gave independence to the Yemen Territories, which included our old major Military Base, the busy port of Aden. Hardly had Independence been initiated, when the fragile Yemeni Government found it had a Civil War on its hands. The Yemeni Tribesmen in the north of the Yemen, banded together to oust the Government, situated in Aden. Denis Healey, Britain’s Minister for Defence, panicked at the thought of Communist tribesmen taking power and controlling the strategic Port of Aden. Amongst other moves, he rushed H.M.S. FORTH, at short notice, to Mombasa in Kenya, to act as Factory Support Ship, for the warships being rushed to the area.

We left all our submarines at Singapore under the command of Commander SM Sam Fry. Commanding the Submarine Squadron was no problem to Sam; his real headaches were involved in looking after the large community of FORTH’s families, who saw their men sailing away in H.M.S. FORTH for an unknown tour of duty in Mombasa, Kenya – a long way away from Singapore. Sam quickly got all the Officers’ wives gathered for a Meeting, where they all agreed to be ‘responsible’ for the groups of Sailors’ families nearest to them. Hazel was detailed to keep an eye on about 10 such families close to our bungalow. The wives visited each family that fell under their charge, to establish contact, with the main message of: ‘Any domestic problem cropping up, come to me first for fast contact’. The Sailors’ wives were a bit vulnerable without their husbands around. They were spread all over Singapore Island and Johore Bahru in Malaya, in privately rented accommodation, most with Chinese or Malayan neighbours – (language problems), nearly everyone without a telephone at home and a lot of wives without a car. And not at all easy for young white women to venture out on the unlit streets or roads after dark looking for a public ‘phone box or to try and hail a passing taxi. It is pitch black at

6.30 p.m. every day in Singapore. Much better to walk the short distance to their designated Officer's wife's house, where there was at least a car and, in some cases, a telephone too. One of Hazel's 'charges' was a young wife of a Stoker, expecting her first baby. Hazel had double-checked with her arrangement to travel to the British Army Hospital in Singapore City – approximately 15 miles from Johore Bahru. Yes, she had a nice Indian neighbour who was a Taxi driver, and "No problem, Missy, I drive you to Hospital when birth is imminent".

When the time came – after midnight on a Saturday – he was nowhere to be found. Another Asian neighbour drove her to Hazel's bungalow. Hazel – a qualified midwife – took one look at the girl and said, "Straight on my bed, your Baby is on the way right now and I will deliver it". A baby boy was born, and Hazel then telephoned the Navy Duty Doctor in Johore Bahru. He came and organised an ambulance to take the mother, Baby and Hazel to Johore Bahru's civilian hospital. All turned out well and the sailor husband in Forth, at Mombasa, got his good news by signal.

FORTH arrived at best speed at Mombasa and berthed on Admiralty buoys, right at the top of Mombasa's long river estuary. There were already 2 Frigates waiting to berth on us for maintenance and stores, so FORTH's 'Factory Personnel' – mainly the Engineering and Supply Departments – were busy from Day One at this dull routine work.

We, the Squadron Staff, had nothing to do. Frankly, we should have stayed with our Submarine Squadron in Singapore. But our new Captain S/M. Lance Bell-Davies, who had relieved dear old Ken Martin, was hell bent on getting promotion to Admiral and here was the prospect of a lovely little war to further his ambitions. He said so himself being given command of the hurriedly assembling Task Force for an invasion of Yemen and said he needed us Staff Officers with him, should this situation arise. Well, it didn't, and we Staff spent the 3 months in Forth at Mombasa with nothing to do, save enjoy the long 'holiday'!

As it turned out, the only involvement by British Forces, in Yemen's Civil War, was 42 Commando Brigade being parachuted into the Radfan area of Yemen to stop the fierce Tribesmen rebels advancing on Aden. The Radfan, just north of Aden is a wilderness of bare rock hills, where no-one lives, and nothing grows in the year-round searing heat – one of the hottest spots on earth.

The Marine Commandos got stuck into a vigorous shooting battle with the Yemeni rebels and were doing quite well against the enemy until their water ran out. Frantic signals to the Ministry of Defence in London, saying, supply us with drinking water very urgently! Panic in London – what containers can be found to drop water by parachute onto the jagged rock ground of the Radfan?

The roughest plastic containers in the world from I.C.I. were tried first. They cracked on landing. The Marines could only leave cover to recover that precious water after dark when the rebel snipers couldn't see them. Alas, the water had seeped away in the scorching daytime heat. Think again London - urgently!

Denis Healey, the Defence Minister, was clever enough to realise he was battling with a very thorny problem. He addressed a crowded British Parliament to say they must prepare themselves to learn that 2,000 of Britain's crack soldiers might have to surrender to a bunch of illiterate rebel tribesmen – not through defeat by arms, not through lack of ammunition or food or medical supplies – simply through lack of water. Helicopters were out of the question – the Tribesmen were armed with Russian high-powered rifles and light machine guns – they, being excellent marksmen, could shoot the helicopter pilot through the head at a height of 2,000 ft., never mind shooting the machine down. To rescue the Marines overland to Aden would involve a mini-D Day Landing by amphibious forces. The Marines had to get their drinking water by parachute drop. All this went on at the start of a week and by Friday the Ministry of Defence in its grand corridors of Whitehall, was no nearer a solution.

Friday evening to those Admirals, General and Air Marshals and their extensive Staffs and to the armies of Civil Servants who had cushy jobs at Whitehall, was the time to break for the weekend of hinting, shooting and fishing and golf and dinner parties, all in the countryside away from London.

Not this particular Friday night in 1967. They were all confined to Whitehall's offices and radio rooms until this problem of water was cracked. That evening an elderly M.o.D Archivist Librarian, close to his retirement pension, who always let the rush go on Friday evening before wending away home in London's suburbia, was amazed to walk the corridors of frantic activity. He asked a person passing in the corridor, "What's all the fuss about?" The person explained the water problem. "Why don't you drop them blocks of ice?" End of problem. Of course, freeze the water in the containers and the beleaguered Marines could collect the broken lumps. It worked!

The accolades for solving this frantic problem ballooned as they rose up the H.Q.'s structure to the Minister himself, who was pleased to inform Parliament that his Ministry of Defence had averted this potential disaster. The Civil Servant Librarian was content to receive the thanks of neighbouring officers at the lower echelons for solving the problem!

In Mombasa, we carried on playing tennis. One night, a couple of use idle Staff Officers joined the Captain for dinner in his palatial suite, to help entertain a few Mombasa V.I.P.s. The wealthiest one was an old mate of Ken Martin's from the war days. He had left the Navy at the end of the war and bought an old yacht with his lump sum gratuity. He sailed away from Britain, overflowing with de-mobbed Servicemen, heading round the world. He got as far as Mombasa and found this great African natural harbour bankrupt after the war – no ship repair yards and no steamship company of their own. He sold his yacht, bought an old tramp-coaster and went into the business of moving cargoes and passengers up and down Africa's east coast. His business prospered rapidly, and he ended up founding the East Africa Steamship Company and the

Mombasa Ship Repair Yards. Both were sold to the Kenyan Government after Kenya got its independence from Britain. He was so pleased to 'talk' submarines with us again and said, as we had time on our hands, why not borrow his present yacht and sail up the coast for a few days. Bell-Davies, Captain S/M, could hardly say 'Forbidden' across the dinner table and Rex Turner and myself said, delighted, "We'll push off tomorrow – okay Sir?"

We needed at least 2 others to crew this magnificent 8 berth 'Moonraker', but none of our fellow Officers had the guts to ask Captain S/M for leave of absence, so we settled on taking a Ship's Cook and Steward. And off we went, up the coast to a beautiful small harbour called Kilifi – preserve of Kenya's rich. They all knew Moonraker well as we entered this lovely river estuary – rather like Dartmouth – and a good handful were ready to show us Moonraker's mooring-buoy – but really, much more interested to find out who the owner had loaned his yacht to. Once onboard us for a drink and to discover we were Royal Navy, the invitations flowed – "Come to our Club for Sundowners at six" – etc. When we left FORTH, we had provisioned Moonraker, Bell-Davies saw us off and just as we slipped our ropes, he shouted, "Keep an alert Radio Watch, in case I need you back urgently." Rex and I replied in unison. "Aye-aye, Sir". Both of us knew there was no radio in Moonraker!

So, no surprise, towards the end of our second day in Kilifi, the Club Commodore came aboard to pass Captain S/M's, message to us, "Return to Forth!" Earlier that day, Rex and myself had bodily lifted the yacht's fibre-glass dinghy over the side to row ashore. Unfortunately, we lifted and swung to rest it on the guard-rails as our first movement, when one of the rail uprights poked a hole in the dinghy's bottom. Right, let's get it ashore for repair, instantly. We looked again at the shoals of basking sharks circling Moonraker and made a plan. Rex would row as fast as he could, while I bailed out – not too far to the shore and touch and go we would make it without the dinghy sinking. The Cook asked for our Next of Kin details before we set off! We made it – just! An African repairman said he would do the repair – come back in 5 day's time. We bartered him down to 2 days and that was rock bottom minimum. We went ashore again, with the Commodore, to tell the repairman the dinghy repair must be completed forthwith as Moonraker must leave for urgent return to Mombasa – War Duties"! He was totally unimpressed. Okay we said, "What's the cost of the job?" He mumbled away about the price of fibre-glass materials etc. and came up with 1,000 Kenyan Shillings (£10). Commodore whispered to us, that really meant 750 K.S. (£7.50), and we duly bartered him down to that price. Then we played our trump card "We will pay you double – 1,500K.S. – if you complete the repair right now". He was already working like a demon possessed as we strolled away for dinner in the Yacht Club. The Members – all locals of course – heard our plan to sail at midnight. Not possible they said – the marker buoys to guide yachts out of the river estuary are unlit – it's a daylight harbour only! Ah, we said, it's a ¾ moon and the wind is blowing out to seas (Moonraker had no engine). They were all on the headland to watch, with great foreboding, our departure that night. Rex and I picked out the marker buoys fairly easily in the moonlight and Moonraker steered very sharply with the following wind. The seas breaking on the reefs frightened us quite a bit, but we stuck to our compass and suddenly, as it seemed, there we were, out on the deep, safe Indian Ocean. Whew! Set course for Mombasa.

We arrived safely back alongside FORTH next morning, to be met by Bell-Davies, who half apologetically said, "Sorry to re-call you, Chaps, but Cdr. S/M in Singapore needs an answer to several signals concerning submarine problems that have cropped up and he needs your 'specialist' comments by return signal". Ah well, a short, but most enjoyable couple of days yachting holiday!

To be continued in the June 2022 Issue of Periscope View

SUBMARINERS 'CROSSED THE BAR' REPORTED MAY 2022

Branch	Date	Name	Rank/Rating	Official Number	Age	Submarine Service
Non-member	4th April 2022	Douglas Alfred (Alfie) Marks	Fleet Chief Radio Supervisor	TBA	91	Submarine Service in DOLPHIN, RG (P), SEASCOUT, SENESCHAL, THULE, TELEMACHUS & TACTICIAN
Dolphin Branch	8 th April 2022	Richard Yorath Cooper Sharp	Lieutenant Commander (EL)	N/A	89	Submarine Service from June 1955 to October 1970 in DOLPHIN, THERMOPYLAE (LO), DOLPHIN, RORQUAL (LO on Commissioning at Barrow in Furness on 24th October 1958), DOLPHIN, ADAMANT & DOLPHIN
Dolphin Branch	3 rd May 2022	Michael Geoffrey Carlisle Tanner, OBE	Commander (MESM)	CO09551P	85	Submarine Service from September 1962 to May 1989 in ALLIANCE & CHURCHILL
Submarine Officers Association	4 th May 2022	Michael Nield Collis	Commander (E)	N/A	95	Submarine Service including DOLPHIN, TRUNCHEON, PORPOISE, AMBROSE & DOLPHIN
West of Scotland Branch	5 th May 2022	George Rhodie	Chief Petty Officer OPS(Sonar)	J976678X	83	Submarine Service from January 1961 to November 1989 in TIRELESS (1961), TEREDO (1962), ANDREW (1963), GRAMPUS (1964), VALIANT (1965 to 1966), OTUS (1966), TIPTOE (1966 & on Commissioning at Chatham on 24th February 1967), REPULSE (S) (1st Commission Crew) on 28th September 1968, REPULSE (P) (on commissioning at Rosyth in 1972), RESOLUTION (1977 to 1979) & RENOWN (1982 to 1984)
Non-member	May 2022	Harry Paling	ME	N/A	89	Submarine Service from 1951 to 1973 from including ACHERON (on commissioning at Portsmouth on 7th February 1955) & R Class
West of Scotland Branch	May 2022	John Imrie	Warrant Officer WEM (R)	N/A	TBA	Submarine Service from 1970 to 1999 in REVENGE, RESOLUTION & REPULSE
Non-member	May 2022	Michael (Mick) J Fish	Leading Stores Accountant	N/A	TBA	Submarine Service in PORPOISE, ONYX (4th Commission Crew) at Rosyth on 23rd November 1985), OCELOT & ONSLAUGHT
Non-member	May 2022	M (Micky) Foot	TBA	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service TBA
Non-member	May 2022	Philip J Sinkinson	Medical Technician 1 (HP)	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service in CHURCHILL on commissioning at Barrow on 15th July 1970 & SWIFTSURE

Submarine Officers Association	19 th May 2022	Brian Alan Needham	Commander (X) (SM)	N/A	TBA	Submarine Service in TACTICIAN, AMBUSH, TURPIN, TACITURN, THERMOPYLAE (IL) & CACHALOT (CO)
Non-member	20 th May 2022	Kieran A O'Connell	Leading Marine Engineering Mechanic (M)	D141616Q	TBA	Submarine Service from 1974 to 1994 in SWIFTSURE (1974 to 1978), (1979 to 1986) & (1988 to 1992) & SOVEREIGN (1992 to 1994)
Ex Plymouth Branch	28 th May 2022	Peter A (Rod) Gearing	Chief Petty Officer Marine Engineering Artificer (P)	D188529H	82	Submarine Service from 1967 to 1987 in ODIN, OSIRIS, SWIFTSURE (1st Commission Crew) on 17 th October 1972 & SUPERB (on recommissioning at Devonport on 28 th September 1985)
Ex Dolphin Branch	30 th May 2022	J Mark (Bosso) Bosson	Chief Petty Officer Marine Engineering Mechanic (M)	D162287Q	61	Submarine Service from July 1979 to 201* in TIRELESS, TRENCHANT, VANGUARD, TURBULENT (1st Commission Crew) on 28 th April 1986, RESOLUTION & RENOWN
We Remember Submariners	31 st May 2022	David (Dave) Marshall	Not given	Not given	76	Submarine Service from March 1965 to 3 rd March 1986 in ARTEMIS on 'Commissioning' at Chatham on 10 th September 1965, AMBUSH, ALARIC, CACHALOT, FINWHALE, ORPHEUS & OPOSSUM