



# PERISCOPE VIEW

**Patron: Admiral Sir James Perowne KBE**  
**President: Commodore Jim Perks CB**

**The Newsletter of the Barrow-in Furness Branch of  
The Submariners Association**

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September 2023



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## BARROW BRANCH OFFICERS

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### Hon President:

Barrie Downer 01229 820963  
[frozensnorth55@gmail.com](mailto:frozensnorth55@gmail.com)

### Chairman:

Steve McKay 01229 586668  
[steveanddory@icloud.com](mailto:steveanddory@icloud.com)

### Secretary:

David A J Smith 01229 583008  
[davidajsmith@msn.com](mailto:davidajsmith@msn.com)

### Social Secretary:

Alex Webb 01229 839551  
[alexjan1516@hotmail.com](mailto:alexjan1516@hotmail.com)

### Treasurer & Membership:

Les Hambling 07799 214556  
[Hamblingles2@gmail.com](mailto:Hamblingles2@gmail.com)

### Vice Chairman:

Mark Butchart 07965 272933  
[m.butchart@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:m.butchart@hotmail.co.uk)

### Committee Members:

Steve May 07974 357014  
[snm18463@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:snm18463@yahoo.co.uk)  
Peter Hearn 01229 480765  
[Peter.hearn@btinternet.com](mailto:Peter.hearn@btinternet.com)

### Welfare:

TBA

### Newsletter Editor:

Barrie Downer 01229 820963  
[frozensnorth55@gmail.com](mailto:frozensnorth55@gmail.com)

### Standard Bearer:

Alex Webb 01229 839551  
[alexjan1516@hotmail.com](mailto:alexjan1516@hotmail.com)

### Slops:

Malcolm Hogg 07768 170325  
[bloke52@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bloke52@hotmail.co.uk)

### Website Manager:

Dave Oakes 01229 475140  
[Dave.oakes@btinternet.com](mailto:Dave.oakes@btinternet.com)

***“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,

How are you all? Keeping well I hope!? Here is the September Branch Newsletter. Summer is over – did it ever arrive? Now we are into Autumn and the run down towards Halloween and Christmas! Already!! I am told that Christmas goods are piling up in the Supermarkets even before the School Summer Holidays are over!

I haven't received much input to the Newsletter from Faslane or from Branch Members this month although Dave Smith's Secretary report includes quite a lot of information recently received from the SA Committee. Anyway I have found several items of interest to fill the gaps! There is a Booking Form for the Sea Cadet's Trafalgar Dinner at the Fairfield Hall on 27th October where Dennis Horan will provide the entertainment. There is a flyer for the Sankey Photographic Archive which has now been digitised and will be accessible on-line from 7th September. The Archive covers some 10,000 images from 'in and around Barrow' in earlier years of the last century with many photos of the Shipyard, Ships and Submarines plus the Iron and Steel works and also general life and events in and around Barrow. There are details of a new book by Keith Hall (a submariner) about the X Craft from WWII and the 1950s – published to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the X-Craft attack on the TIRPITZ in the Norwegian Fjords. Proceeds from the sales of the books will go to the Helensburgh Submarine Centre where there is an actual 1950's X-Craft (Barrow built! Of course) on display! For anyone visiting Portsmouth and Gosport in the near future the Submarine Museum has been busy revamping its X-Craft display area to better explain the story. There is also a piece about divers recently visiting the wreck of the WWI U-Boat UC-55 – at a depth of 104 metres - rather than me!

If you were trained at HMS RALEIGH and fancy a trip down Memory Lane the Commanding Officer of RALEIGH has introduced a new scheme whereby - once a month a small number of veterans can return to Torpoint for a day to revisit old times! See details on how to apply below – it doesn't apply to Tiffies who trained over the road at HMS FISGARD. I see the weather can't really make its mind up whether it is really Summer or Autumn at the moment – hopefully the sunny weather of the last few days will turn into an Indian Summer – but don't hold your breath.

I hope your plans for a little rest and relaxation over the summer have built up your strength for a busy time to come. I hope to see you all at the September Branch Meeting – next Tuesday 5th September – usual time and usual place so don't be late.

Best Regards

Barrie

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## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

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The Branch September meeting will be informal due to the absence of several key personnel during this holiday period. It is anticipated that the rum issue will still take place to toast Absent Friends and the Loyal Toast.

1. **Branch Matters:**

- a. Canal trip on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>

All those who still haven't paid please to do so ASAP. There are still 4 places available, cost £45 per person which gets you a coach, vodka jellies, wine table, 4 hour party on the canal boat, absent friends cocktail, packed lunch courtesy of the Bosun's Locker and return trip.

2. **SAC Matters and Other Related Correspondence:**

The full details of the following subject matter have been forwarded to all Branch members via email including the relevant attachments.

- a. **SA Funds:** Can members put forward ideas on what to spend National Funds on, when they are released by SAC (this is the 60k put aside when the SA joined TSF). The release date is unknown as we need to ensure that TSF is well established before we release any of the funding. Furthermore, decisions must be made if we need to release a

percentage of the funding at a time. By sending your members ideas to us we will get an appreciation of what they would like the SAC to recommend the funding to be spent on.

b. **SAC Meeting Action/Decision Grid:** The SAC mtg held on 15th July was distributed to all branch members. However, to clarify the new layout and the change from the minutes only actions and decisions made by the committee are recorded for distribution. Although it may not seem so from the number of actions and decisions in the attached it is much simpler for me to complete and it records exactly what matters.

c. **Update on Commemoration of Operation Source on 23rd of September.** By Frank (Sandy) Powell, Blue Plaque Project Manager. Further to a previous report members of the Submariners Association should be aware that a ceremony marking the 80th Anniversary of Operation Source (attack on Tirpitz, Scharnhorst & Lutzow by X5, X6, X7, X8, X9 & X10), will commence at 1200 (NOON) on the 23rd September 2023 at Kylesku Bridge Car Park, Lairg (IV27 4HW). Please contact Commander Tim Honnor by Monday 11th September or realistically prior to that date the names of any members of the Submariners Association that will be attending. He can be contacted via email [tim.honnor@mac.com](mailto:tim.honnor@mac.com) or on 01463 793225. Following the ceremony there will be a buffet type lunch at £15/hd at the Newton Lodge Hotel (A894, Kylesku, Lairg IV27 4HW) which is a couple of miles south of Kylesku Bridge. All Submarine Association members are encouraged to attend the above event if possible.

d. **AGM & SA Reunion in Belfast 2024:** There is a discount code for Stena Line ferries that members attending the 2024 AGM & Reunion in Belfast may find useful. The discount code is, P11228. It can only be used when booking by telephone (not online) and is about 15% off. It is for MoD veterans.

e. **Military v Cancer:** Details for the Submariners Bremont \$500 Watch raffle in support of Military vs Cancer. It will be engraved with up to 8 characters of your choice (Official Number?) on the rear and £300 worth of Bremont accessories. Military vs Cancer supports Military / MOD personnel past and present plus their families, struggling with the effects of cancer. Having already raised over £250,000 and changed the lives of many families, we continue to fundraise to support many more in need of our help. We fund memory making holidays, home modifications, breaks away and more. Tickets are £10.00 each and available via:

Pay via Stripe using the following link (will include 75p postage fee)

<https://buy.stripe.com/14kbM8g836uH7NSeUX>

Pay via Paypal or Stripe using the following link (will include 75p postage fee)

<https://www.militaryvscancer.com/product-category/raffles/>

The draw will take place next month at the Military vs Cancer Annual Ball Hilton Hotel, Ageas Bowl, Southampton 16 Sept. The winner does not need to be present at the Ball (details attached) however should you wish to attend, please get in touch as we would love to see you there.

f. **Dundee Memorial Service.** This will take place on Saturday 9th September 2023 at Waters Edge, Camperdown Street, Dundee, DD1 3HZ. The Dundee City Council is pleased to be able to organise the annual Dundee Memorial Service to commemorate those that were lost on Submarines that departed from Dundee in WWII and did not return. They are "Still on Patrol". Organised in conjunction with the Scottish Branch of the Submariners Association and the International Submariners Association GB, the event will take place on Saturday 9th September 2023 at 11.00 AM at the Submariners Monument in Dundee. Representatives from Dundee City Council and Rev. Mark Street will be leading the Service and are inviting the attendees and others to join them to pay their respects and lay wreaths or flowers during the Service. On completion of the Service all participants are invited to the reception held either in the APEX Hotel courtesy of Dundee City Council. We hope to welcome many representatives again from the UK and foreign Navies and Submarine Associations and join us for this prestigious event. For those that decide to stay overnight in Dundee we are pleased to advise that there are many places of interest in Dundee including good restaurants and bars to visit. We recommend you will find out more details of these in your hotel.

Should you have any further questions or require information please do not hesitate to contact me. Ron Rietveld, Scottish Branch.

g. **TSF 2023 Funding Snapshot:** Thank you for continuing to support your family. Your generosity has permitted us to support over 5000 submariners, veteran submariners, and their families since May 2022 in varying projects. In 2022 (we launched in May 22) we awarded £35k in minor grants, £14,500 in welfare grants, £33k was awarded to We Remember Submariners, Friends of the Submarine Museum and the Submariners Association in association grants. In 2023 so far, we have awarded £58k in minor grants to support, Homecomings, Unit refurbishments, Remembrance events, Heritage protection, £14,500 in unit welfare grants, £4k in Herbie Lott awards (an award to recognize those who have improved the way the RN/RM forces operate). We have supported 6 families to go away on a well-deserved break, supported veterans with addictions and support needs across the UK, delivered five hundred hampers to partners of those deployed on RN Submarines and 52 people have been given free access to online mental health support courses.

h. **TSF Website:** MindWorks have been working to transfer the TSF website portal into WordPress from Mindtype. MindWorks are beginning that process next week. The site will be frozen on the 22nd and 23rd of August for data transfer, so the website will not be accessible for the public or those with Admin rights. The plan is to go live on Thursday 24th August; however, there still may be a few minor issues with data for a couple of weeks, so it is advised that

if you need any membership data you need for your relevant organisations./Charities that you do so by close of play on Monday.

**By Editor:** I understand that the planned Go Live date for the Website and the 'On Line Book of Remembrance' (OBOR) has been deferred MindWorks by to 10 to 14 days!

i. **Request for help:**

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to seek any assistance the Submariners Association may be able to provide regarding HMS Churchill and HMS Resolution. I work for the Royal British Legion in the War Pension Advocacy Department. I am currently representing the widow of a deceased submariner who served for some 20 years in The Royal Navy, and specifically on these two boats.

The information that is sought relates to the specific job roles and training for the job roles of ALOEM and LWEM(O), and the likely radiation such a person may have been exposed to during service on these boats. (HMS Churchill - Jan 1974 to Nov 1976, OEM & ALOEM, and Nov 1984 to Nov 1987 – LWEM(O)) & (HMS Resolution Dec 1978 to Feb 1982 – LWEM(O))

Specifically, I have been asked by the Armed Forces Compensation 1st Tier Tribunal to see if any assistance can be obtained in the following areas of expertise:

The training for the specific role of OEM & WEM

The onboard jobs performed or likely to have been performed by an OEM & WEM (Including Nuclear Power Plant Operator)

The Training for the specific role of WEM(O) is "Operations of sections of the Polaris Weapon System, Including, Lunch System, Missile Ejection, Lunch Control and Missile Environmental Monitoring".

The onboard jobs performed or likely to have been performed by a WEM(O) in conjunction with the above.

Any known incidents which may have resulted in individuals being exposed to more radiation than would otherwise be mandated.

Please note that this has been requested by the tribunal panel and not by either party. The tribunal panel are an inquisitorial panel that tries to ascertain facts and decide if the decision made by the Secretary of State in respect of a former service member is correct.

I would be most grateful for any assistance that could be given, even if it is only to refer me to someone who may be able to assist further.

Yours faithfully

David Brenchley LLB (Former RM)  
War Pensions & AFC Service Advisor  
DBrenchley@britishlegion.org.uk

**Regards**

**David A J Smith, Branch Secretary**

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### **SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT**

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#### **Hello Shipmates.**

August was a quiet month for us taking in the sunshine, holidays etc, etc.

But now we are back and the highlight of this month's social calendar is our Canal Trip on Saturday 9th September. I have 29 names down and need another 4 to make it a full house. Cost is £45 per person, which gives you transport to and from then venue, vodka jellies, wine and nibbles table, 4 hours canal party cruise, packed lunch, absent friends cocktail and a really good night out. I am collecting names now so don't miss out and get your name down; I will collect monies at the September meeting.

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Below is the updated Branch Events List:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>
					<u>October</u>
			7th Oct	Sat	DTS West Shore Club
		<u>September</u>			
9th Sep	Sat	Canal Trip	12th Nov	Sun	<u>November</u> Remembrance Sunday
			23rd Dec	Sat	<u>December</u> Christmas Party -

The Member's draw was won in July by Sue Smith so this meeting I am going to start it off at £10. I hope to see you there.

Alex

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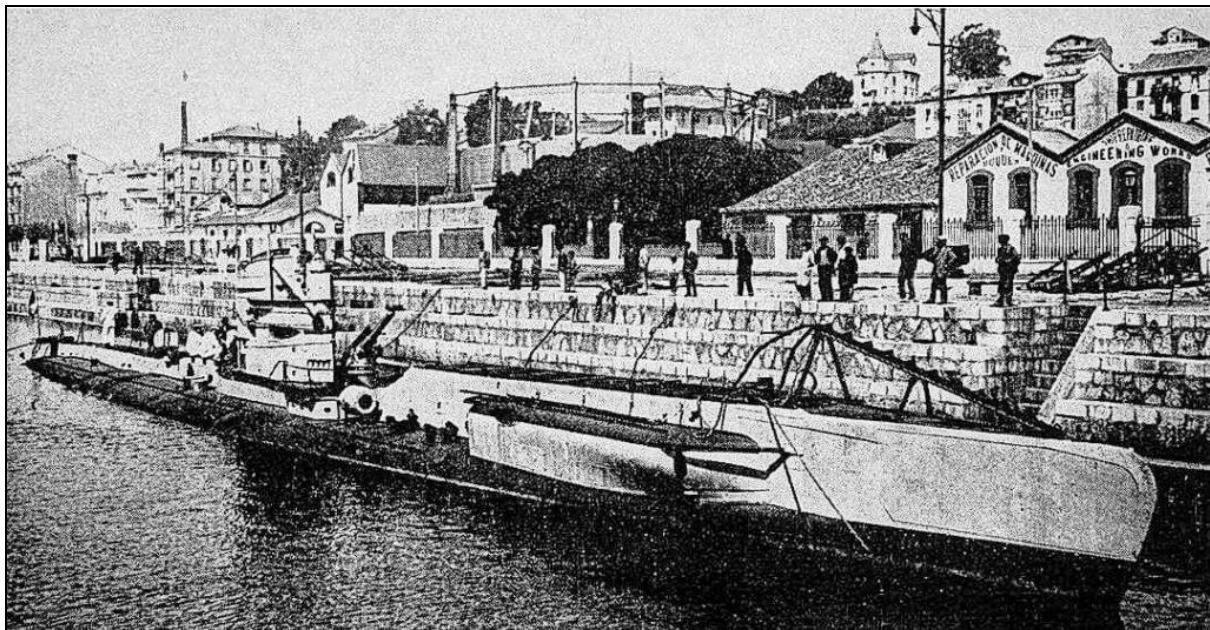
### M/V VALHALLA Divers identify WW1 U-boat at 104m

Divernet, Scuba News Wrecks

Steve Weinman on July 27, 2023

July has been quite a month for scuba diving beyond 100m to explore significant wrecks. The latest such technical dive has taken place off Shetland, with the positive identification of a deep-lying U-boat sunk by Royal Navy warships during World War One. Rebreather divers from the Orkney-based diving liveaboard MV VALHALLA became the first to visit the German mine-layer SM UC-55 on 21 July – at a maximum depth of 104m.

The 415-tonne UC-11-class submarine was commissioned into the German Imperial Navy in November 1916. Fifty metres long, it carried 27 crew and was fitted with six 39in mine-tubes with 18 mines; one stern and two bow 20in torpedo-tubes with seven torpedoes; and a 3.5in deck-gun.



UC-55

Over six patrols, UC-55 had already been credited with sinking nine merchant ships and damaging two more, as well as the destroyer HMS ALBACORE in the months before it met its end off Shetland on 29 September 1917. The submarine had been about to start laying mines about eight miles south-east of Lerwick, in the convoy channel between Orkney and Shetland, when a trim problem led it to dive beyond its 50m operating depth.

The forward compartment flooded as a result, forcing the U-boat to surface but leaving it unable to manoeuvre because the batteries had failed. Two Royal Navy destroyers, HMS TIRADE and HMS SYLVIA, and the armed trawler MORAVIA shelled and finally depth-charged the German sub. It sank with the loss of 10 lives, including its commander Oberleutnant zur See Horst Ruhle von Lilienstern, and 17 men were taken prisoner.

The wreck-site had been picked up on a side-scan sonar survey in 1985, lying upright to 5.6m off the seabed, but because of its depth it would have proved challenging to dive at the time. VALHALLA's owner and captain Hazel Weaver says that the technical dive-team had spent a decade planning their dive to check out the wreck. The divers were Jacob Mackenzie, Toni Norton, John & Tracy Timperley, Craig Stevenson, Thomas Zloch and Martin Mako Janeček, all diving on closed-circuit rebreathers except for Tracy Timperley, who was back-up diver and on open circuit. Their efforts on the day were backed up by the VALHALLA crew of Helen Hadley and Brandon Rowlands, with the support of wreck-researchers Kevin Heath and Wayne Allen.

The team enjoyed a bottom-time of around 35 minutes on the wreck and succeeded in putting its identity beyond doubt. Details of the damage inflicted on UC-55 had been recorded by the crews of the British warships, which had struck first the conning-tower and then the hull. "The dive went very well, with no problems arising," Weaver told Divernet. "Vis



was 25m at depth.” The divers spotted many live torpedoes and mines, and the Video footage captured by Mackenzie shows many details of the well-colonised submarine, including the deck-gun and hatch openings. He said of his footage: “Not my best Video, but this was a hard one – long swim down the line in current and a very limited bottom-time.” This is captured in the first six minutes of darkness before the lights pick up fishing-nets, and the subsequent footage of the submarine as the divers move rapidly around the wreck-site is compelling.

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### **Contract for First Phase of AUKUS Submarines build agreed with BAE**

Evening Mail 8th August 2023

By Dan Taylor

Chief Reporter



**Barrow's shipyard from above** (Image: Newsquest)

The Government has awarded a design contract to BAE to assemble submarines as part of a major agreement with America and Australia. AUKUS submarines are due to be built in Barrow as part of the agreement which will see Australia work with the two countries to develop new submarines. According to reports, a contract for the 'detailed design and long lead items' was signed with BAE. It represents the first stages of work on the Ship Submersible Nuclear AUKUS, the future class of attack submarines that will replace the Astute class boats. Details of the contract were shared in a Ministry of Defence minute to parliament.

It said: "The purpose of this Minute is to notify Parliament of reportable contingent liabilities that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) intends to incur as a result of placing the Detailed Design and Long Lead Items contract with BAE Systems for the Ship Submersible Nuclear AUKUS (known as “SSN-A”), the future class of attack submarines to replace the Astute Class.

"Negotiations are ongoing and the contingent liabilities will come into force on signature of the contract." The first phase of the work includes fabrication of steel in Barrow.

As part of the AUKUS pact, the UK's submarines will primarily be constructed in Barrow, while Australia will work on developing its submarine industrial base over the next decade.

Australian submarines are due to be built in Adelaide, South Australia, with some components produced in the UK. BAE will play a key role in the programme and is expanding its workforce by 6,000 staff.

The Government announced British involvement in building submarines as part of the agreement in March. The next generation of Barrow-built hunter-killer submarines, SSNR, will be used by both the UK and Australian navies. Until the SSNR submarines are built, President Joe Biden announced that Australia will be buying up to five Virginia-class submarines from the US.

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### **Barrow MP Meets Australian High Commission**

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023

From Simon Fell MP of Barrow & Furness

A long day, spent travelling to and from Furness on Tuesday last week, to get down to the Australian High Commission in London and meet with the High Commissioner, the Director General of the Australian Submarine Agency, and political and diplomatic leads working on AUKUS.

This unique partnership - tying together the UK, Australia and the USA not just on the SSN-AUKUS submarine programme, but also on a wide range of other areas of interest - is crucial to our shared global interests of defending

democracies around the world. Given Barrow's significant role in designing and delivering that next generation of boats it is also crucial to our local economy too.

As the Chair of the APPG AUKUS in Parliament it was an honour to lead a small cross-party delegation to Australia House to discuss our shared interests and help to build the understanding and relationships that will matter so much to the UK, to the world, and to Furness, for generations to come.



At the Australian High Commission in London

### SEPTEMBER BRANCH CALENDAR

Merchant Navy Day	Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep
Branch Meeting	Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Sep
Canal Trip	Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Sep
Naval Assn Biennial Parade	Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Sep
Committee Meeting	As Required

### OCTOBER BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting	Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct
DTS West Shore Club	Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Sea Cadet Trafalgar Dinner	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Committee Meeting	As required

### NOVEMBER BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting	Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov
BAE Crane Memorial Service	Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Railway Remembrance Parade	Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Remembrance Parade	Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov

Committee Meeting

As Required

### SEPTEMBER BRANCH BIRTHDAYS

J. (Jim) Thomson	08/09/1952
P (Peter) Wells	08/09/1954
D.J. (Dave) Oakes	09/09/1954
G. (Glyn) Stevens	10/09/1949
R (Robert) Leithead	12/09/1944
L.A. (Les) Hambling	13/09/1951
K. (Kath) O'Donnell (A)	14/09/1950
B (Brenda) Thomas (A)	20/09/1945
J (Joe) Crossland	27/09/1988
C.(Christine Byrne)(A)	28/09/1942

**Happy Birthday All!!**



## **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.

## **SUBMARINE COMMISSIONING CREWS**

Commissioning, De-commissioning and Re-dedication Crew Lists – are still wanted, thank you very much. This is for an ongoing project to compile a Chronological Record of Submariners. If you don't have any Crew Lists and you wish to be added to the Record you can always send me your details - where and when joined boats, rank or rate, boats served in - with dates if known – Official Numbers are lays helpful as well.

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

## **OPERATION SOURCE -SEPTEMBER 1943**

### **Operation SOURCE**

In September 1943 six in Number X-Craft - each manned by a Passage Crew of three were towed by six Submarines - each of which carried an X-Craft Operational Crew of four - in addition to their normal crew. The X-Craft were to attack German Capital Ships in the Kaa Fjord in Norway. The Operational Crew were to relieve the Passage crews when the Submarines and X-Craft reached the area of the Kaa Fjord. In all (apart from the Towing Submarine Crew) forty-two X-Craft personnel took part in Operation Source – eighteen Passage Crew Members and twenty-four Operational Crew Members. The X-Craft were:

#### **HM Submarine X-5**

This submarine participated in the attack on the German Battleship TIRPITZ in Kaa Fjord, Northern Norway on Wednesday 22nd September 1943. Submarine X-5 left Port Bannantyne on 18th September 1943 and was towed to the operational area by **HMS THRASHER**

You can contact me by E Mail, Snail Mail or Telephone.  
Thanks, Barrie Downer

## **REMEMBERING FORMER BARROW BRANCH MEMBERS - SEPTEMBER**

William Winn	1978
Thomas Hill	1981
Bruce Collins	2008
R Nigel Buckley	2009
Donald Byrne	2010
Derek Lowe	2011
Graham Wynn	2015
Robin Emmerson	2016

## **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 [frozensnorth55@gmail.com](mailto:frozensnorth55@gmail.com). Come on – every Submariner has a story to tell – some more than one! Let's see yours in print!

Constructive suggestions about the Newsletter are also very welcome. The Newsletter will be published in the last week of each month i.e., the last week in September 2023 for the October 2023 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!

(Lieutenant A. R. Hezlet, RN). The Operational Crew took over from the Passage Crew for the approach to the target and the attack. Lieutenant Henty-Creer (the CO) is believed to have made his way into the area around the TIRPITZ but was not seen again. The Passage Crew returned home in HMS THRASHER. Submarine X5 was lost with its Operational Crew - who were all awarded Mentions in Dispatches - were:

**Lieutenant Henty Henty-Creer, RNVR**

**Sub Lieutenant Tom John Nelson, RNVR**

**Acting Sub Lieutenant Alastair David Malcolm, RNVR**

**ERA 4th Class Ralph James Mortiboys O/N P/MX79142**

#### **Submarine X-6**

This submarine participated in the attack on the German Battleship TIRPITZ in Kaa Fjord, Northern Norway on Wednesday 22nd September 1943. Submarine X-6 was towed to the operational area by **HMS TRUCULENT**

(Lieutenant Commander R L Alexander, RN). The Operational Crew took over from the Passage Crew for the approach to the target and the attack. The Passage Crew returned home in HMS TRUCULENT. The attack was successful. All four of the Operational Crew survived, were rescued by the Germans, and become Prisoners of War but Submarine X6 was sunk. Lieutenant Cameron (the CO) was awarded the Victoria Cross, Sub Lieutenants Lorimer and Kendall were each awarded the DSO and ERA Goddard the CGM.

#### **Submarine X-7**

This submarine participated in the attack on the German Battleship TIRPITZ in Kaa Fjord, Northern Norway on Wednesday 22nd September 1943. Submarine X7 was towed to the Operational Area by **HMS STUBBORN** (Lieutenant Arthur Anthony Duff RN). The Operational Crew took over from the Passage Crew for the approach to the target and the attack. The attack was successful, and the TIRPITZ was badly damaged but not sunk. Two of the Operational Crew survived and were rescued by the Germans and become Prisoners of War but the other two of the crew were lost and Submarine X6 was sunk. Lieutenant Place (the CO) was awarded the Victoria Cross, Sub Lieutenant Aitken was awarded the DSO. Lieutenant Whittam and ERA Whitley (who were both lost) were posthumously Mentioned in Dispatches.

#### **Submarine X8**

On 17th September 1943, whilst on passage to Norway for an attack on the German Pocket Battleship LUTZOW, Submarine X8 which was being towed by **HMS SEANYMPH** (Lieutenant J P H Oakley, DSC, Royal Navy), lost its trim, and became out of control. The Commanding Officer of X8 traced the problem to a flooded Starboard 'Side Charge' and decided to jettison the charge. This exploded about a thousand yards astern of X8 (although the charge was set to 'Safe') but caused no damage to the submarine. The Port 'Side Charge' then began to flood and was also jettisoned. This exploded some three miles astern of X8, but this time damage was incurred. A decision was taken to scuttle X8, which was of no further use in the TIRPITZ attack.

Both the Passage and Operational Crews returned home in HMS SEANYMPH

#### **Submarine X-9**

Overnight 15th/16th September 1943 Submarine X-9 was being towed by Submarine **HMS SYRTIS** (Lieutenant M H Jupp, DSC, Royal Navy) en-route to attack the German Pocket Battleship SCHARNHORST. On being ordered to surface on the morning of 16th September X-9 failed to surface and was presumed lost on tow. ERA Vernon Coles, of the Operational Crew, reported that he thought the towing rope probably parted at about 0600 and that the consequent increase in shaft revolutions in SYRTIS (although noted by the ERA of the Watch) was not reported to the Control Room. As a result, SYRTIS did not start a search for X-9 for several more hours. X-9 was never seen again, and the Passage Crew were all lost. The Operational Crew returned home in HMS SYRTIS. The lost Passage Crew Members were:

**Sub Lieutenant Edward Kearon, RNVR**

**Able Seaman Harry Albert Harte O/N C/JX 207081**

**Stoker 1st Class George Henry Hollett O/N D/KX 151674**

#### **Submarine X-10**

Submarine X-10 was intended (with Submarine X-9) to participate in an attack on the German Pocket Battleship SCHARNHORST in Kaa Fjord in Northern Norway. The submarine was towed to the Operational area by **HMS SCEPTRE** (Lieutenant I S McIntosh RN). The Passage Crew were then relieved by the Operational Crew for closing to the attack area and for the attack. The approach to the attack area was affected by a number of defects to the submarine systems, which eventually led to the abandonment of the attack. Lieutenant Hudspeth and his crew managed to exit the area and to achieve a rendezvous with Submarine HMS STUBBORN (Lieutenant A A Duff, RN) and hand X-10 over to the Passage Crew for the tow back home. Owing to poor weather the Passage Crew were recovered to HMS STUBBORN and X10 was ordered to

be	scuttled.
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Timed for the 80th anniversary of the first deployment of the X Class subs, **X3 to X54** reveals the Midget Class Submarines from X-Class to Stickleback

## X3 to X54

### The History of the British Midget Submarine

**Keith Hall**

**ISBN 9781803991993**

**Paperback (Published 7 September 2023)**

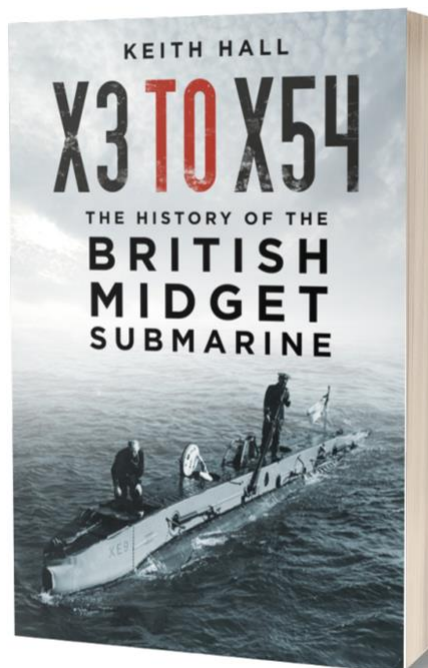
**RRP £17.99**

The **X-** and **XE-Class** submarines were conceived during the **Second World War**: around 51ft (16m) long, they were designed to be towed by a 'mother' submarine and use their small size to complete stealth missions, such as attacking harbours and performing reconnaissance. Although they would not begin active service until 1942, the submarine crews achieved quite the record, racking up 167 honours between them, including four **Victoria Crosses**.

Written by ex-submariner **Keith Hall**, **X3 to X54** is a look at the entire life and evolution of the British midget submarine, from its early prototypes to its final journeys. With a wealth of imagery, including archive X-craft photographs as well as up-to-date views of the **X51 (HMS Stickleback)** from the **Scottish Submarine Centre**, this is the fascinating, yet little-known, story of Britain's midget submarines.

**KEITH HALL** was born in Leeds. After leaving school at 18 years old, he joined the **Royal Navy** and spent thirty-three years in the medical branch; the majority of this time was spent on nuclear submarines or in shore billets in support of the **Nuclear Propulsion Programme**. After leaving the Navy in 2003, he worked as a health physicist at **HM Naval Base Clyde**. He retired in 2015.

An avid collector of old photographs and postcards, Keith Hall writes about local and naval history, particularly focusing on submarines. He is currently working on a book about the Navy's **Trident** submarines, a follow-on to his work about the history of the Royal Navy's **Polaris** programme.



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# Barrow-in-Furness Sea Cadets

Invite you to the

TRAFALGAR BALL Annual Fundraiser

at

The Fairfield Lodge, Fairfield Lane, Barrow  
Friday 27th October 2023 (7.00 pm for 7.30 pm)  
Sit-down dinner and entertainment by Dennis Horan  
Dancing till Late.

**Dress Code – Mess Undress or Uniform with Bow tie, Dinner Suit.**

Cost £40.00 per person

All proceeds to Barrow Sea Cadets

To order tickets please complete the booking form below and return to  
Barrow Sea Cadets HQ, 1 Dundee Street, Barrow-in-Furness with cash or cheque  
No later than Friday 6th October 2023 to ensure availability of tickets.

Booking enquiries – Tel 01229 821945 (Answerphone available)  
or email [barrowseacadets@gmail.com](mailto:barrowseacadets@gmail.com)

## BOOKING FORM TRAFALGAR BALL TICKETS

Name

Address

Tel No.

Email

I require  tickets at £40.00 each and enclose cheque/cash for £   
(Bank Transfer Details:-Acc 63191796, Sort Code 200468, Reference as Surname & initials with booking, or  
Cheques payable to Barrow Sea Cadets)- Email conformation will be sent.

Please make your meal choices with numbers in the boxes below. Please write on the  
booking form if you require a Vegetarian main course. FULL MENU OVER

<b>Starter</b>	Soup		Prawn Cocktail		Pate	
<b>Main course</b>	Roast Beef		Chicken		Mushroom Tart	
<b>Dessert</b>	Eton Mess		Sticky Toffee		Cheesecake	

**Booking form and payment (cash/cheque) to be returned by no later than Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Numbers are limited so book early to avoid disappointment, as bookings after this date cannot be guaranteed**

Raffle prizes will be gratefully received prior to or on the night. Many thanks for your  
support to Barrow Sea Cadets.






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### Return to RALEIGH offer for former sailors trained at Torpoint

Did you serve at HMS RALEIGH and fancy a trip down memory lane – whilst also encouraging a new generation of Royal Navy sailors?

Then a new initiative introduced by the Torpoint establishment this autumn will be right up your street. Once a term, the base is going to open its gates for a small number of former personnel to revisit old haunts, as well as watch a group of recruits pass out of basic training on RALEIGH's sprawling parade ground at the beginning of their naval careers.

Given that the base has been around since WW2 and has been the premier RN establishment for turning civilians into junior ratings since the mid-1970s... hundreds of thousands of men and women have passed through RALEIGH before starting their professional training as chefs, seamen, engineers, aircraft handlers, medics, divers and more.

RALEIGH's Commanding Officer Captain Jane Roe is keen to open up access to the site for veterans eager for a nostalgia trip, but also to show them how training has evolved to meet the expectations of young men and women of 2023... and meet the demands of the Fleet in which they serve.

Due to pressures of time and the demands on personnel on pass-out day, there will not be the chance to visit old blocks, dine in the senior rates' mess or drop in on the bar, or visit some of the more distant training facilities like Jupiter Point, the fire school or Pier Cellars. But you will watch a training video to show how the Royal Navy of 2023 turns civilians into sailors, watch successful recruits receive their epaulettes, and tour a messdeck which is home to trainees for ten weeks. After eating (paid for by yourself/or a packed lunch) you'll move to the parade ground (or drill shed if it's raining) for the passing-out parade. Throughout you'll be hosted by members of local Royal Naval Associations who also provide moral and physical support to trainees to help them attain their goal of passing out.

The first opportunity to 'return to RALEIGH' will be on Friday October 6. The initiative is planned for once a term initially and is only available to individual visitors, not groups (the latter are dealt with/hosted by HMS RALEIGH's Executive Department). Space will be limited to 15 veterans, plus one friend/carer, with allocations made on a first-come, first-served basis.

Veterans should be reasonably mobile and not overly dependent on medical care, although wheelchairs can be accommodated. And you're encouraged to wear medals and veteran's badges. If you are interested, contact [christopher.cleary680@mod.gov.uk](mailto:christopher.cleary680@mod.gov.uk) with the following details: Veteran's full name and post nominals, date of birth, your date of entry into the RN at HMS RALEIGH and your final rate/rank held. You should also provide your accompanying guest's full name and date of birth, vehicle make, colour, registration and whether you have any mobility issues

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### SUBMARINERS 'CROSSED THE BAR' REPORTED IN AUGUST 2023

Reported via	Date	Name	Rank/Rating	Official No.	Age	Submarine Service
Ex Norfolk Branch	19th July 2023	Roy D Binet	Chief Petty Officer M(E)	P/KX 849921	92	Submarine Service from 1950 to 1970 in ALCIDE, THULE, SIRDAR, TALLY HO, TUDOR, TRENCHANT, TEREDO & OPPORTUNE on commissioning at Chatham on 29th December 1964
We Remember Submariners	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Ian (Jock) Tait	TBA	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service including VALIANT, CHURCHILL & SOVEREIGN
SAOC	28 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Geoffrey R Meek	Lieutenant Commander, RCN	N/A	92	Submarine Service from 1955 to 1970 in AMPHION, SPRINGER, ALLIANCE, TOTEM, PORPOISE, NARWHAL (IL), ARTFUL (CO), ONONDAGA (1st CO 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 1967 to 1968), OKANAGAN (2nd CO 18 <sup>th</sup> August 1969 to 1969), 3rd CO (5 <sup>th</sup> November 1969 to December 1969) & 5th CO (29 <sup>th</sup> January 1970 to 31 <sup>st</sup> July 1970)
We Remember Submariners	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Simon Martin Walkington Holland	Lieutenant Commander (E) (TM)	TBA	TBA	Service in PJHQ Northwood (2001 & 2003 NL), FOST Faslane (2003 to 2005 NL), NEPTUNE 2SL (2006 NL) & HMNB Clyde (2007 & 2008 NL)
We Remember Submariners	2nd August 2023	Peter Rawson	Able Seaman (Underwater Weapons 3)	P/SSX 89022	88	Submarine Service from 1954 to 1960 in TOTEM (1954 to 1955), ALCIDE (1955 to 1956), TACTICIAN (1956), TIPTOE (1957), ASTUTE (1957 to 1959) & EXCALIBUR (1959 to 1960)
We Remember Submariners	4 <sup>th</sup> August 2023	Christopher J (Chris) Williams	TBA	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service in RESOLUTION (1 <sup>st</sup> Commission & RESOLUTION (P) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Commission
Dolphin Branch	6 <sup>th</sup> August 2023	John William (Bill) Beatty	Commander WESM	CO14292S	83	Submarine Service from May 1968 to November 1993 in AMPHION (1968), PORPOISE (1968 to 1970), VALIANT (1971 to 1973), DREADNOUGHT (1973 to 1977), & SPLENDID, WARSPITE, CONQUEROR, COURAGEOUS & TRAFALGAR (1990 to 1993)
SAOC	8th August 2023	Donald Lemuel Brown	Chief Petty Officer Coxswain RCN	No given	88	Submarine Service from 29th November 1954 to October 1974 in DOLPHIN, MAIDSTONE, SOLENT, UNTIRING, SCORCHER, AMPHION & GRILSE (RCN) & RAINBOW (RCN)
We Remember Submariners	10th August 2023	Michael Ayles	Leading Seaman (UC2)	D074964Y	TBA	Submarine Service from 1967 to 1972 in OLYMPUS & PORPOISE

Reported via	Date	Name	Rank/Rating	Official No.	Age	Submarine Service
Friends of SM Museum	12 <sup>th</sup> August 2023	Henry (Harry) Lionel Brazier	Lieutenant Commander	TBA	82	Submarine Service in GRAMPUS (Autumn 1964 NL), VALIANT (1966 & 1967 NL), PRESIDENT (1968 & 1969 NL), WALRUS (1970 NL), COQC (1970), AENEAS (CO - 1972 NL), RNC Greenwich (1973 NL), DIS (1974 to 1976 NL), Asst Naval Attache Moscow & Warsaw (1977 to 1979 NL)
Australia Branch	19 <sup>th</sup> August 2023	Michael Timothy Hickie DSC	Lieutenant Commander	N/A	100	from May 1942 in P222 (5 <sup>th</sup> Hand Oct 1942), URSULA (NO Dec 1942), TRUANT (NO Apr 1943 & IL), TACITURN (IL Jun 1944), TRUNCHEON (IL Oct 1945), TAURUS (IL Jun 1946), THERMOPYLAE (IL Feb 1947), ANCHORITE (IL May 1947 to Aug 1948), SIRDAR (CO Mar 1949 to Aug 1950), AMPHION (CO Jan 1952 to Sep 1953), TALLY HO (CO Mar 1955 to Apr 1959) & PLATYPUS (XO)
Manchester Branch	23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2023	Kenneth Hughes	Able Seaman (UC2)	D094322	75	Submarine Service from October 1967 to 1974 in ODIN, SEALION & OCELOT
We Remembers Submariners	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2023	Alan Haigh	Lieutenant	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service in REVENGE & RENOWN (S) (1969 to 1971)
We Remembers Submariners	August 2023	Dan Gardyne	Not given	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service including TURBULENT from 2006
Friends of SM Museum	27 <sup>th</sup> August 2023	James Hawton Leatherby	Commander (S) (SM)	Not Reported	TBA	Submarine Service from 1978 in RENOWN (1978 to 1982), RALEIGH (1987 & 1988), FOSM Northwood (1993 to 1996), NEPTUNE BSO (1997 & 1998), NEPTUNE DLO (2001 to 2005)
We Remembers Submariners	27 <sup>th</sup> August 2023	Kevin Doidge	Leading Stores Assistant (SM)	Not Reported	TBA	Submarine Service from 1999 including TRAFALGAR
Friends of SM Museum & Dolphin Branch	28 <sup>th</sup> August 2023	Timothy Howey Morton Strouts	Lieutenant	Not Reported	75	Submarine Service from May 1969 to April 1977 in DOLPHIN, OCELOT (1970), OTUS (1971), OJIBWA (1972 & 1973), RESOLUTION (1974 & 1975) & WARSPITE (1976 to 1977)
Merseyside Branch	August 2023	Sam Price	Petty Officer Cook	D129916L	68	Submarine Service from 1977 to 1990 in WALRUS (1978 to 1980 & 1983 to 1985), RESOLUTION (1986 to 1987) & WARSPITE (1988 to 1990)