

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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COVER PHOTO:

Group Photo taken after the BAE Crane Memorial Remembrance Ceremony at the Dock Museum

"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,

Someone told me once that it never snows in Barrow – well, hardly ever – but this week has done its best to prove it's not the case with 5 days of frost and two of snow. Hopefully everyone has managed to keep warm & dry! Here is the December edition of our Periscope View Newsletter – apologies if it's a bit later than usual but I'm rather busy working through a long list of things to do!

Alex's Social Report covers planned events up to the end of the year! Not too many of them now but the Christmas Party and the DTS and Seaweed Corner should both be very popular. Don't forget that if there is anything you think might be added to the social programme for 2024 get your ideas to Alex as soon as possible to see whether they might be included in his planning.

Dave Smith's Secretary Report updates you all on recently received correspondence from the SA Committee – not so much from National this month but I expect you saw his Email on the results of the Online (OMOV) vote about a proposed new Logo for the SA. The voting went in favour of a new Logo but the turn out for the Vote was very low – which is disappointing and the National Committee will review the way ahead. The whole idea of OMOV was that everyone would be able to vote on line and make their decision known. The current SA Logo is essentially the same one which the Submarine Old Comrades introduced many years ago. It had been updated to reflect the change of name to the Submariners Association so perhaps a revision is due to reflect our all 'Nuclear Submarine Flotilla' but not entirely forgetting our 'Diesel' generations. A picture of the 'New' Logo is included below!



The Remembrance Events are over and done with for another year and all seem to have been very well attended. Although I was unable to march in the Barrow Parade again this year I did manage to get to the Dock Museum for the BAE Crane Memorial, the AEI & AE2 Remembrance and to the Legion for our Submariners Remembrance. Thanks to all of you who took time out for the various Ceremonies and Parades in London & locally. I have included a selection of photos that have been sent to me! Those of us who were at the Dock Museum had the opportunity to have our Photos taken and, in the Group photo on the Front Cover you will also see Commander Chris Evans - the Senior Officer of the new HMS DREADNOUGHT. There are also two photos from the recent outing to the Forum 28 for the Three Kings Show. Have a look and see if your picture is there!

You may recall that I said that Simon Fell (our Barrow and Furness MP is the Chairman of the AUKUS All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG). He will be writing an Article on the AUKUS Project for me to go in the next Edition of In Depth but I have included an extract from his weekly Newsletter about the APPG meeting with a delegation of Australian MPs and, including our previous MP John Woodcock – now Lord Walney!. Talking things Australian there was an Australian Submarine Commander at the Legion after the Remembrance Parade and he told us he is here for the AUKUS Programme and there are more Australian Submariners here, at the training Schools, at Faslane and soon to be embedded with the Crews of our ASTUTE Submarines!

I hope to see you all at the December Branch Meeting – Tuesday 5th December – usual time and usual place so don't be late. You might even win the Members Draw! While I remember can you all make a note that the January Branch Meeting will be a week later on Tuesday 9th January to avoid a clash with the New Year parties. Anyway – enough from me and can I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year for 2024

Best Regards Barrie

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hello Everyone

As a busy remembrance month ends the party season commences. A big thank you and BZ to all those who braved the weather for the various remembrance events, both local and in London. That also includes the family and friends who also attended in support.

A gentle reminder that the Branch subscription is due at the end of December so please check your standing orders are up to date or bring the cash (£5) to the December or January meeting. Speaking of which the January meeting will be on the 9th of January.

If you have any items or proposals for the Branch AGM in April, please forward them to me in writing (email will suffice). They need to be submitted by the February meeting to enable all the members to review them.

R & C 6. NB1. All matters to be discussed at the AGM, including nominations for election shall be in the hands of the secretary by the February branch meeting and notified to the branch in advance of the AGM.

Regards

David A J Smith, Branch Secretary

SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

Hello Shipmates.

November was a very busy month for remembering and paying our respects to the fallen. Also we managed to tuck a little social in under the guise of a night at the theatre watching the 3 rock and roll kings. Thanks to all who supported this event and I have a similar one planned for next march.

Socials:

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At the tail end of our social calendar with only two remaining. Firstly we have our Christmas party on Saturday 23rd December at the Legion. £6 per person, bring a plate (finger buffet only; no rice or cheeseboards without any knives). I will be supplying the mince pies so don't bother with those either. It will be a great night with live entertainment, top drawer raffle and lots of great company. I will be selling the tickets for this at the meeting.

Then finally topping of the year with another DTS at Seaweed corner, this is now scheduled for Saturday 30th of December, kick off is at 3pm. I will be providing chips butties and the first drink is on the social fund; please tell me if you are coming so I get enough chips.

The members draw was not won in November so stands at £25 for the December meeting.

I am organising another trip to the Forum 28 to watch the Crooners; a comedy with lots of music from the likes of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin etc. If you wish to join us then please tell me within the next week because I am getting a block booking so we can all sit together.

Very soon I will be putting together the social program for next year, if you want anything added or have any suggestions then now is a very good time to get them to me.

If you can't join me for either of the Socials then have a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Yours Aye, Alex

DECEMBER BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting Tues 5th Dec Christmas Party Sat 23rd Dec Seaweed Corner DTS Sat 30th Dec Committee Meeting As Required

JANUARY BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting Tues 9th Jan
Committee Meeting As Required

FEBRUARY BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting Tues 6th Feb Committee Meeting As Required

DECEMBER BRANCH BIRTHDAYS

L.W. (Lindsey) Thwaites 02/12/1965 D Thompson 31/12/1986 P.G. (Paul) Douglas 03/12/1965 G Livingstone 6/12/1947 K Lake 9/12/1946 A.B. (Tony) Handley 10/12/1954 I. (Ian) MacIntyre 11/12/1964 P. (Phillip) Webb (A) 11/12/1950 J (Sully) Sullivan (A) 13/12/1955 M. (Mick) Bown 15/12/1945 V (Vernon) Miles 17/12/1952 Martyn Hillier 18/12/1942 D. (Dave) Cattroll 28/12/1957 S. (Stephen) Doughty 28/12/1964 T.D. (Terence) Pyne 31/12/1934

Happy Birthday All!!

DISCLAIMER

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opinions expressed in this Newsletter but encourages publication as a matter of interest.

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

REMEMBERING FORMER BARROW BRANCH MEMBERS - DECEMBER

Montague Lee	1979
George Cubiss	1966
Harold McMillan	1972
Laurence Pattison	1967
Norman Tubb	2003
John Streets	2005

Mick Hulbert	2006				
Tim Coop	2008				
Keith Myers	2011				
Sir Tim Kimber	2012				
Tom Kennedy-Wilson	2012				
Jan Mead	2014				
Brian Wilkie	2014				
Ginge Cundell	2015				
Carl Moody	2016				
David Birkhead	2016				
John Houlding	2018				
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 frozennorth55@gmail.com. Come on – every Submariner has a story to tell – some more than one! Let's see yours in print!

Constructive suggestions about the Newsletter are also very welcome. The Newsletter will be published in the last week of each month i.e., the last week in December 2023 for the January 2024 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 & SUBMARINER LOSSES OF WWII DECEMBER 1943

One member of the crew of the Submarine Depot Ship **HMS ADAMANT** died on 20th December 1943. It is understood that he died at sea (presumed accidental drowning) near Trincomalee in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). He was:

Acting Stoker 1st Class Charles Henry Taylor O/N C/KX 152886 (Ch

Thiry year old Charles Taylor was from Southampton, Hants

Three Royal Navy 'Liaison' personnel died when the Free French Submarine **FFS PROTEE** was lost 'with all hands' in the Mediterranean on 18th December 1943. The three Royal Navy Liaison personnel. were:

Sub Lieutenant Adrian Norman de Wael, RNVR Adrian De Wael was the son of Alfred Francois de Wael and Bertha Elizabeth de Wael of Cockfosters, Hertfordshire. He is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval War Memorial on Panel No. 80 Column No.1

Leading Telegraphist Dennis Raymond Collier O/N C/JX 158361

Twenty-year-old Dennis Collier

He is commemorated on the Chatham Naval War Memorial on Panel No.71 Panel No. 1.

Leading Signalman John J Usherwood O/N C/JX 148824

John Usherwood was the twenty-one-year-old son of John Usherwood (a gardener) and Marian Usherwood of Ramsgate in Kent. He was the twin brother of Marian Alice Usherwood and the husband of Joan Mary Usherwood of Enfield Middlesex. He is commemorated on the Chatham Naval War Memorial on Panel No. 70 Column No. 3.

HMNBC 41/23 Monday, 6 November 2023 ROYAL NAVY MEDIA RELEASE

SUBMARINERS GATHER IN LONDON FOR ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Serving and Veteran Royal Navy Submariners travelled to London at the weekend to remember those submariners who have gone on "eternal patrol". Hundreds of members of the Silent Service attended events at Westminster Abbey on Saturday, and at Middle Temple Gardens on Sunday, to pay their respects to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. This year marks the centenary of the first ever Submariners Memorial Service held in 1923 following the establishment of the National Submarine War Memorial in 1922. Ever since, the Submariners' Remembrance has been held the week before the nation's main Remembrance commemorations to allow Submariners to attend both.

Events are held over two days with serving submariners and veterans gathering for the Dedication of the Poppy Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on Saturday. The main event is the Remembrance Parade the following day and is attended by members of the Submariners' Association, serving and veteran submariners and Commodore (Cdre) Paul Dunn, Commodore of the Submarine Service. Cdre Dunn is the Commanding Officer of the Submarine Flotilla, based at HMNB Clyde. The Naval Base is the home of the UK Submarine Service and as well as the four Vanguard-class and five Astute-class Royal Navy submarines currently based

there, it will be the homeport for the new Dreadnought Class of submarine, expected to be in service in the early 2030s.

"Once again the annual Submarine Remembrance Service brought together all generations of The Submarine Family." Said Cdre Dunn. "From our youngest 17-year-old submarine trainee to a war veteran now aged 100, the weekend celebrated those submariners who continue to deliver our enduring mission whilst remembering those who have gone before us." Following the Parade at Middle Temple Gardens, a Service was led by the Reverend Steven Dray, the Submarine Association Chaplain, with prayers read by the Reverend Mark Street, Chaplain for the Submarine Flotilla. During the ceremony there was a two-minute silence, wreath laying, and the reading of the roll call of submarines lost.

One of the youngest members of the Silent Service, Engineering Technician Rhys Tiffany (aged 17) laid a wreath on behalf of HMS Sultan, the Navy's training establishment in Gosport for all engineers – above and below the waves. "I have always taken a great interest in the act of Remembrance; it is important we recognise the sacrifices made by those gone before us. As someone who is just starting my military career, they are a huge inspiration," said Rhys. "It is a massive honour to represent HMS Sultan and the Submarine Service in laying a wreath. It is something I didn't expected to do, and I am immensely proud."

At the start of World War 1, the Royal Navy had fifty seven operational submarines which expanded to one hundred and thirty seven vessels by the time the war ended in 1918, with another seventy eight under construction. During the war, fifty four of its submarines were sunk, and over thirteen hundred Royal Navy submariners were killed.

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



Royal Navy Submariners gather at the Poppy Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey.



Veterans and members of the Submarine Association pay their respects.



Commodore Paul Dunn laying a wreath during the service.



ET Rhys Tiffany salutes during the Memorial Service.



100-year-old Veteran, Alec Alfred 'Maxey' Maxim laying a wreath at the drumhead.



Serving Submariners and veterans gather in West Cloisters at the Submariner Statue.

The Barrow Parades & Remembrance Events









Laying the Wreath for AGAMEMNON & AGINCOURT

The School Remembrance Service







AUKUS ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MEETING



(A Report from Simon Fell - MP for Barrow and Furness)

I recently had the delight of hosting a delegation of Australian MPs in Parliament with fellow committee members from the AUKUS All Party Parliamentary Group. In our meeting, we discussed AUKUS, cyber security, immigration, the role of China, Ukraine and much more.

The UK and Australia shares a history and are tied by the Commonwealth and common values. Thanks to this strong base, the decades-long AUKUS pact outlines the shared future with our allies in the USA and ensures that the next generation of submarines – SSN AUKUS – will be delivered in Barrow with shared technology and skills. The pact adds resilience to the programme, will support thousands of jobs and puts Australia, the UK and the US in a position to face any future threats.

Simon Fell MP- back row Right. Lord Walney (formerly MP for Barrow & Furness) - front row Left

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BAE CRANE MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCE















FIRST USE OF NEW REPAIR SUBMARINE PROCEDURE CHURCHILL Medal Award Divers and engineers recognised after complex repair to HMS AUDACIOUS

13 November 2023

Royal Navy divers and submariners were commended for their ingenuity for overcoming engineering challenges that kept a hunter-killer submarine on vital national tasking for an extra six months.



Marine engineers and Charlie Squadron of the Diving and Threat Exploitation Group made complex underwater repairs – that usually need a dry dock – to HMS AUDACIOUS during the boat's historic 11-month patrol of the Mediterranean. For their skill and effort working inside partially flooded ballast tanks – the critical source of buoyancy keeping the submarine afloat – they received the prestigious Churchill Medal Award from The Institution of Engineering and Technology.

The advanced hunter-killer submarine was on operations away from her base on the Clyde two days short of a year, making it the longest ever deployment of any of the Astute-class submarines.

Defects are commonplace during any deployment, but 3,000 miles from home and on rigorous national tasking – in response to Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine – there was an extra burden on the engineering department. The scale and intricacy of the repair had only ever previously been attempted in a dry dock in the UK but, given the importance of AUDACIOUS' mission in the Med, it was unacceptable for the boat to be unavailable.

The team developed highly sophisticated ways of working, allowing divers and the boat's engineers to enter the cramped main ballast tanks and make repairs on the mechanism that sits just above the waterline, has no natural ventilation or lighting and has a maximum of one metre headroom. It took the team 19 days to complete the repair, with AUDACIOUS able to continue her deployment in the Med for another six months because of their work.

Commanding Officer of HMS AUDACIOUS, Commander James Howard, said: "The dedication, innovation and engineering professionalism demonstrated by the team in the face of extreme pressure and under challenging conditions is truly outstanding. "Their actions made a direct and significant contribution to operational availability and strategic capability, and they are considered highly worthy of recognition." "The team's ability to deliver such a precise repair with limited support in incredibly challenging conditions and with considerable operational constraints displayed outstanding levels of dedication, exacting engineering standards and ultimate professionalism under significant pressure," the nomination for The Churchill Award said.

It adds: "It is a testament to the team's technical prowess that they efficiently delivered an enduring repair which restored the system to design intent and delivered correct operation throughout the remainder of the deployment." The Churchill Medal Award is the most prestigious award for engineering and innovation in the Armed Forces and MOD and is awarded every year on behalf of the Joint Professional Engineering Institutions.

NOTE: The need for his type of repair i.e. inside Tanks and Free Flooding Spaces etc. away from Home Ports with the Boat remaining in water had been anticipated during the Design Stages of the ASTUTE Class. Draft Procedures and the requirement for 'special' Blanks to be designed to seal off such spaces had been identified at Design Reviews.

Royal Navy submarine in 'danger zone' plunge - the depth that would be deadly for sailors

Story by Ryan Fahey



A Trident-class nuclear submarine Vanguard © PA Wire/Press Association Images

Submariners on a Royal Navy vessel narrowly escaped an atrocious death as they were saved moments before it reached its crush depth - the point where the sub collapses in on itself. The submarine was patrolling Atlantic with 140 sailors and an arsenal of world-ending Trident 2 missiles on board when a glitch with the depth gauge nearly triggered a disaster similar to the one seen in June when the Titan submersible imploded. The depth gauge, which tells the controller how deep the ship is, failed. It showed sailors the vessel was level, although it was steadily plummeting towards the sea floor. The blunder saw the vessel plunge until it almost reached its "crush depth", which is also known as "collapse depth" in the US. The crush depth will vary by vessel as the likelihood of implosion is worked out by the strength of the hull. We are not sharing the exact model of the Royal Navy Vanguard-class sub, or its definite crush depth, for security reasons, but previous tragedies can enlighten how much pressure is needed to crush a 500ft nuclear sub. The USS Thresher was the lead nuclear-powered attack submarine of the US Navy, which imploded during deep-diving tests around 220 miles of Cape Cod in the 1960s. Declassified documents later indicated that the Thresher likely caved in on itself at a depth of 1,300-2,000ft. A later analysis put the estimate at 2,400ft.

The military-style submarine that has reached the deepest part of the ocean is the K-278 Komsomolets, which had a hull made of titanium - a more expensive material that proved more resistant to pressure than the high-grade steel used in US-made submarines. It was specially designed to reach depths of 4,265ft below sea level.

But non-military subs have been designed to go even deeper. Rescue submarines like the US DSRV (Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle) had test depths of 5,000ft - meaning its maximum depth could be 7,500ft - 10,000ft, according to Naval Post. Another smaller vessel - the bathyscaphe Trieste managed to plummet to 35,813ft in the ocean's deepest point, the Marianas Trench.

As the submarine begins to approach its true crush depth, its dials and sensors start shutting down. Instead of slowly seeping through cracks, the water smashes through the hull and starts flooding the vessel. The water intake has a knock-on effect of creating a scorching heat that could kill every sailor on board. Body parts become part of the chilling debris that rises above the waves. The internal pressure would surge from 14.7 to almost 875 PSI in a matter of moments. Anything that could catch alight would do so until a crushing wall of water put out the flames and battered anyone unlucky enough to survive the pressure surge. A sailor's lungs and sinuses would instantly cave in on themselves and the shockwaves would knock them unconscious. Essentially, the crew would be slaughtered through a myriad of gruesome ways in a matter of seconds.

In last week's Royal Navy near-miss, the depth gauge - which tells sailors how far below the waves they are - failed on the decades-old Vanguard class vessel as it carried 140 members of crew and Trident 2 missiles through the Atlantic. If they'd reached the depth, it would have sparked human carnage and the chaos of a salvage mission to recover the top-secret vessel and its nuclear reactor.

The submarine was about to go on a patrol when the dials stopped working. Commanders thought the ship was level when it was in fact still diving towards the sea floor. Thankfully, engineers at the other side of the 500ft vessel noticed a second dial and raised the alarm as it plummeted towards the "danger zone". Speaking to The Sun, a source said: "It's not the engineers' job to control the sub's depth but they saw how deep they were and realised something was wrong. Technically the sub was still at a depth where we know it can operate, but if it ever has to go that deep the whole crew is piped to action-stations. That hadn't happened. The sub wasn't supposed to be there, and it was still diving. And if it had carried on going, it doesn't really bear thinking about." The sub or the depths involved have not been named for security

reasons. But the fact that the disaster was saved indicates that safety systems aboard the Vanguard-class vessel are functioning properly. An urgent safety probe has been launched by the Naval top brass, but sources say the near miss did not interrupt the UK's nuclear deterrent. Since 1969, at least one Royal Navy submarine has been patrolling the world's waters to strike back should a doomsday attack be launched against UK interests or the British mainland. At present, the UK has four Vanguard-class submarines. Only two of them are operational as one is being renovated and the other is on sea trials. The latter ship recently had repairs that cost £300million over budget. The Navy said: "We do not comment on operations. Our submarines continue to be deployed globally, protecting national interests."

THE FORUM OUTING (for the Three Kings)





SUBMARINERS 'CROSSED THE BAR' REPORTED IN NOVEMBER 2023

(Information on Crossing to bar taken from all available sources)

Reported via	Date	Name	Rank/Rating	Official No.	Age	Submarine Service
Daily Telegraph Obituaries	15 th July 2023	Douglas Lawrence Gilling	Lieutenant, RANVR	N/A	101	WWII service in Chariots & X Craft
We Remember Submariners	1st November 2023	Alan MacLellan	Chief Petty Officer WEM (R)	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service as in OBERON & other boats
Dolphin Branch	4th November 2023	John E Grisman	Radio Operator 2nd Class	P/SSX 926142	85	Submarine Service from 1958 to 1962 in TIPTOE (1959), TALENT (1960), SENTINEL (1960 to 1961) & SERAPH (1961 to 1962)
We Remember Submariners	8th November 2023	Gordon Whadcock	Asdic Rating	Not reported	92	Submarine Service late 1940s/early 1950s in AMPHION, AUROCHS & ALARIC
We Remember Submariners	8th November 2023	Henry Anthony (Tony) Edwards	Petty Officer Radio Supervisor	Not reported	ТВА	Submarine Service TBA
Ex Dolphin Branch & Friend of SM Museum	19 th November 2023	John Patrick Speller, OBE	Captain (X)	CO 09162Y	86	Submarine Service from 1958 to 1984 in DOLPHIN, RORQUAL, AUROCHS (3rd Hand), ALLIANCE (NO), OLYMPUS (IL), MAIDSTONE, AMBUSH (CO), CHURCHILL (IL), DOLPHIN, SWIFTSURE (CO), Northwood, NEPTUNE & MoD London
Friend Of Submarine Museum	20 th November 2024	Richard Hamilton Charles Simpson	Commander (E) (WESM)	Not reported	TBA	Submarine Service from 1969 to 1996 in DOLPHIN, OLYMPUS, NEPTUNE, RESOLUTION, SUPERB, Greenwich, FOSM Northwood, CSST, DNOR, MoD London, MoD Bath, AUTEC & WEO SM2
Sunderland Branch	November 2023	Philip Ainsley- Shaw	Petty Officer Marine Engineering Mechanic (SM)	D132469N	67	Submarine Service from 1974 to 1982 in SWIFTSURE (1974 to 1977) & SUPERB (1978 to 1982)
We Remember Submariners	28 th November 2023	Philip Boland	Chief Petty Officer Marine Engineering Artificer	Not reported	ТВА	Submarine Service from 1963 to 1987 including SEALION & SWIFTSURE
We Remember Submariners	November 2023	Tony (Bruce) McCallum	Chief Petty Officer Marine Engineering Mechanic	Not reported	TBA	Not reported

