



IN DEPTH

Official Newsletter of the Submariners Association

Patron: Admiral Sir James Perowne KCVO, KBE

Vice Patron: John Weale CB, OBE

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PRESIDENT
Commodore J Le S Perks CB

The Submariner

“Of all the branches of men in the Forces there is none which shows more devotion and faces grimmer perils than the Submariner; great deeds are done in the air and on the land, nevertheless nothing surpasses your exploits.”
Sir Winston Churchill 1943

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Cover Picture: HRH Prince William being greeted on his arrival at Faslane

EDITORIAL

Hello Everyone

Welcome to In Depth No. 93. I hope you are all well and that you are all enjoying the current warm (hot!) and sunny weather. So here we are - half way through the 125th Anniversary Year already and quite a few of the Commemorative events have already taken place. Still a few more to come and I am sure there will be some in your area which you can support.

Lots of articles about Submarines and Submarine support are in the news at the moment. The sixth Astute should be leaving Barrow shortly. That will allow the final Astute boat to leave the DDH and make more room available for the Dreadnought build programme. For those that remember the Admiralty Floating Docks (AFDs) at Portsmouth, Barrow and Faslane (and elsewhere) I have included an article about Project Euston which could provide up to three new AFDs (probably two at Faslane) and could there be a third at Barrow? The Cammell Laird Shipyard name at Birkenhead is no more but the Yard is now part of the Baleana Group. I have included an item about the recent visit to Faslane by HRH Prince William and articles about the AUKUS Programme and the recent Defence Investment Plan. There is also a Book Review and information about two new Books which you might find interesting.

Please note that 'In Depth' Issue No. 94 will be published on 1st October 2026. Contributions (especially reports of Branch Events and Socials) are required to be with the Editor (me) by 15th September 2026 - see contact details below.

Please make sure I get your contributions in good time by Email or Snail Mail as appropriate!

Regards,

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Submariners Association Chairman's Update

By Andy Knox, National Chairman

It has been an exceptionally busy and important period for the Submariners Association as we continue to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Submarine Service, support our members and families, and ensure that the proud history of our Service is preserved for future generations.

Petty Officer Thomas 'Nat' Gould VC Blue Plaque

On 6 June, members of the Association gathered in Dover for the unveiling of a Blue Plaque commemorating Petty Officer Thomas 'Nat' Gould VC.

The occasion was particularly significant because this was the final Blue Plaque to be unveiled in honour of the fourteen members of the Submarine Service who were awarded the Victoria Cross. The completion of the project ensures that each of these remarkable men is now permanently remembered within a community connected to their life and service.

Petty Officer Gould was awarded the Victoria Cross for his outstanding courage during the Second World War. The plaque in Dover provides a lasting and visible reminder of his bravery, sacrifice and devotion to duty.

This tremendous commemorative project began when Stephen Beardwood organised the first Blue Plaque in honour of Commander John Linton VC. Lieutenant Commander Sandy Powell RN (Retired) subsequently undertook the considerable task of organising the remaining thirteen plaques.

Each unveiling required extensive research, liaison with families, local authorities and community organisations, as well as the coordination of an appropriate commemorative ceremony. The successful completion of all fourteen plaques is therefore a remarkable achievement.

On behalf of the entire Submariners Association, I offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to Stephen Beardwood and Sandy Powell for their dedication, determination and tremendous efforts. Their work has created a permanent national legacy and ensured that the courage of our fourteen Victoria Cross recipients will continue to be recognised and remembered.

AGM and Family Weekend

Our AGM and Family Weekend in Liverpool was another important opportunity for members and their families to come together in friendship and comradeship.

More than 120 members and partners attended the Gala Dinner, where we were honoured to welcome Vice Admiral Paul Lambert as our principal guest. The weekend provided an excellent mixture of Association business, entertainment and social activity.

Members also attended the annual memorial service for those lost in HMS THETIS at Woodside Ferry Terminal in Birkenhead. We were pleased to be joined by the local Mayor and his wife for this moving act of remembrance.

The AGM gave the National Committee an opportunity to update members on the work being undertaken across the Association, including our progress towards charitable status, the development of our new website, future funding arrangements and the importance of attracting younger serving and former submariners, together with their families, into the Association.

Our Family Weekend continues to demonstrate that the Association is about much more than formal meetings. It is about friendship, welfare, remembrance and ensuring that submariners and their families remain connected to the wider Submarine Service community.

I would like to thank the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity and Greenwich Hospital for their continued support, which helped make the weekend possible.

The 125th Anniversary of the Submarine Service

The 125th anniversary year has already provided many opportunities to celebrate the achievements, history and people of the Submarine Service.

The SM125 Submarine Dinner at HMNB Clyde brought together serving personnel, veterans and representatives from across the Submarine Service community. It was a fitting occasion to reflect upon the professionalism, courage and sacrifice that have characterised the Service since its formation.

The Dunoon Memorial Weekend and the **We Remember Submariners** event at the National Memorial Arboretum also provided important opportunities to remember those who gave their lives in the service of their country.

Further anniversary events will take place throughout the remainder of the year, including gala dinners, awards ceremonies and commemorative events. On 3 October, Barrow-in-Furness will host a 125th Anniversary Parade marking the town's historic and continuing relationship with the Submarine Service (see Page 28 for details)

Our national Remembrance weekend will take place on 31 October and 1 November. This will include the Association's annual Remembrance Parade and the official opening of the Submariners Poppy Garden at Middle Temple Gardens. It promises to be a particularly significant occasion during this historic Anniversary year.

Supporting Our Branches and Members

Our branches remain at the heart of the Association. They provide comradeship, welfare support, remembrance activities and a welcoming environment for submariners, veterans, families and widows.

I am grateful to all branch chairmen, secretaries, standard bearers and committee members who give their time freely to support their local membership. Their commitment enables the Association to maintain a strong presence across the United Kingdom and overseas.

The National Committee continues to work towards securing charitable status for the Association. This would strengthen our governance, improve our ability to raise funds and potentially allow us to benefit from Gift Aid should membership subscriptions be reintroduced in the future.

We are also continuing to develop the new Association website. Members who have not yet registered are strongly encouraged to do so. The website will become an increasingly important means of sharing news, managing membership information and communicating with branches and individual members, registering on the website will also provide access to the shop area where members can purchase limited edition 125th Anniversary Rum and Gin. We will improve the shop area by adding 'slops' items in due course.

The sale of our 125th anniversary commemorative rum and gin has also been very successful. Only a limited number of bottles of the rum remain, while the gin continues to be available through the Association website.

Looking Forward

The remainder of 2026 will continue to be extremely busy, with further commemorative events, branch activities and national gatherings taking place.

While the 125th anniversary gives us an opportunity to celebrate our proud history, we must also remain focused on the future. We must continue to attract younger members, support serving submariners and their families, tackle loneliness and isolation, and remain available to assist those who need our help.

The strength of the Submariners Association has always rested upon its people. I remain enormously grateful to our members, branches, volunteers, partners and supporters for everything they do.

As ever, we remember those who remain on eternal patrol, we support those who served, and we stand alongside today's Submarine Service.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the National Committee who continue to support the Association and myself, and of course Barrie Downer who continues to produce 'In Depth' on behalf of the Association.

Kind Regards,
Andy Knox
National Chairman
Submariners Association

SA Secretary's Update for the In Depth No. 93

Hello to all the Pirates and Scallywags,

I hope this edition of In Depth finds you all well.

Firstly, my apologies for the lack of Zoom Meetings but due to family, personal circumstances and other issues, events these have slipped off my radar. I am planning the next one for the end of July 2026 / early August 2026.

Since the last update we have had a F2F Meeting with the SA Branches from Sunderland and the NE Branch. This was a positive meeting with various questions being asked and answered where possible. The main one being the that the website is a new website and the Veterans need to register to join, noting we have a new website and the previous website details have not been transferred. For information we have 1321 members registered on the collated Database with 170 members unattached to any branch as such. Members via the website is sitting at 343 and 37 branches have returned members information.

Gin & Rum continue to sell and the status as at 12 June 2026 was 295 bottles of Gin, 69 LS Reid bottles of Rum and 54 bottles of Periscope Rum. We have sold approx. 15 of each Rum and a few Gin since this date.

On the 17 May 2026, various SA Branch Members and SAC Members attended the National Arboretum for the WRS Memorial, this was a great event and good turnout. Next year's event will be the 8 May 2027 and will most likely combine with the SA AGM. This will most likely be in Derby and will link up with the Derby, 25 Years Freedom of the City at which I believe an A Boat maybe in attendance providing a Guard for the Matelot and SA Members/Veterans march through the city, all to be confirmed! Once I know the email with details will be sent out.

The next big event that we are working towards will be November Ceremonies and we hope to see as many members as possible, the dates for this event are Fri 30 Oct 26 – Mon 2 Nov 26, the main event being 1 Nov 26. We are hoping for a few VIPs/VVIPs!

For anyone interested in attending the Cenotaph on Sunday 8 Nov 2026 please contact Paul Burton @ paul.rachel@sky.com numbers are limited. Before I sign off, as always if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me @ secretary@submarinersassociation.com

Stay safe and be happy!

Stickie

Secretary to the Submariners Association

Submariners recognised in the King's Birthday Honours List and Navy Awards:

CBE

Commodore David Mark Filtness

OBE

Commander Benjamin Smith

MBE

Lieutenant Commander Aaron Coates

Meritorious Service Medal

Chief Petty Officer Engineering Technician (ESM) A Brown

Chief Petty Officer Engineering Technician (WESM) J Parker

1st Sea Lords Commendation

Commander Nigel Winstone

Royal Navy Commendation

Chief Petty Officer Coxswain (SM) L Davis

Petty Officer Engineering Technician (WESM) J Drummond

Royal Navy Team Commendation

Petty Officer Engineering Technician (MESM) M Forrest - VENGEANCE

Leading Engineering Technician (MESM) C Rice - VENGEANCE

Leading Engineering Technician (MESM) J Stretch - VENGEANCE

NATO Meritorious Service Medal

Chief Petty Officer Engineering Technician (MESM) M R Impey

Messages from We Remember Submariners Charity

(1) Reporting Submariners Crossed the Bar (CTB)

One of the main objectives of the We Remember Submariners Charity is to ensure that no Royal Navy Submariner shall 'Cross the Bar' without recognition of their service. Something all those serving, veterans and families would want as well. This is achieved by funding a wreath, or donation in lieu, as specified by the Next of Kin, for the Funeral, along with a Card of Condolence and Memorial 'Moly' pins, to the immediate family, once we are made aware.

The key message here is that '*once we have been made aware*'. It requested that if you know a Submariner has 'Crossed the Bar', you report it as soon as possible to the WRS via our Facebook page, the WRS Website or using one of the following links

Crossed the Bar Notification - We Remember Submariners

Crossing the Bar – The Submarine Family

Email: CTB Manager at ctb-info@weremembersubmariners.com

The family's permission is required before we can publicly announce the CTB. If you know the family, please ask them to contact the WRS. It is helpful if you can give the CTB date, their Rate or Rank and any appropriate career details.

Membership in the WRS is encouraged so that we can continue to support Submariners and their families.

(2) WRS Membership Price Increase

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with deep regret that due to the ever-rising prices of manufacture, postage and packing, membership of We Remember Submariners will rise from £10 per year to £15 per year with effect from Saturday, 1st May 2026.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why is the membership fee increasing?

Over recent years, the cost of postage, manufacturing, and packaging has risen significantly. These increases directly affect the funds available for our charitable work. The membership fee increase helps WRS remain sustainable and continue supporting submariners and their families.

When does the new membership fee take effect?

The new annual membership fee of £15 will take effect from Saturday, 1st May 2026.

Will the cost of the annual pin change?

No. The price of the annual pin will remain £6 for 2026.

How will the additional funds be used?

The increased membership income will help:

Maintain and improve support for submariners and their families

Cover rising operational costs such as postage and production

Introduce new initiatives such as long service recognition and expanded membership options

All WRS trustees and volunteers continue to work unpaid.

What is the 10 year membership pin?

This is a proposed recognition pin to thank members for 10 years of continued support. It reflects our appreciation for long standing commitment to WRS.

What does “Next of Kin continuation membership” mean?

This option allows a member’s Next of Kin to continue membership following the loss of a loved one, ensuring continued connection, remembrance, and inclusion within the WRS community.

What is junior membership, and who would it be for?

WRS is exploring the possibility of junior membership for those under 18, aimed at engaging younger generations and helping preserve submariner heritage for the future. Further details will be shared if and when this is introduced.

Do I need to do anything right now?

No immediate action is required. Your membership will continue as normal, with the new fee applying at your next renewal on or after 1st May 2026.

I’m struggling financially — are there any options?

If you have concerns about continuing your membership, please contact the WRS team in confidence. We value every member and will do our best to help where possible.

Who runs We Remember Submariners?

WRS is run entirely by volunteers. No one receives a salary, and all funds raised go directly toward supporting the charity’s aims.

DISCLAIMER

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CAN YOU HELP?

LOOKING FOR SUBMARINE COMMISSIONING CREW LISTS

Have you been a Member of a Crew Commissioning or Recommissioning an RN Submarine? Do you have a copy of the relevant Commissioning Brochure and/or a list of Commissioning Crew? If you do would you either loan them or send a copy to Barrie Downer These are required for an ongoing Project - the construction of a ‘**Chronology of Submariners**’. This Chronology is very useful when a Submariner who is not an Association Member ‘Crosses the Bar’ and details of his or her service are requested by the various Submariners organisations – particularly ‘We Remember Submariners’ and ‘Friends of the Submarine Museum’.

What I am looking for are ‘**First Commission**’ Crew Lists for PORPOISE, GRAMPUS, CACHALOT, WALRUS, OBERON, ONYX, ORPHEUS, ODIN, OTUS, UNICORN, AUDACIOUS, ANSON & AGAMEMNON.

Also **Crew Lists for any Commissioning or Rededication** of any ‘S’, ‘T’, ‘A’, ‘O’ Class or ‘P’ Class Diesel Boats, ‘V’, ‘C’, ‘S’, ‘T’ & ‘ASTUTE’ SSNs & ‘RESOLUTION’ or ‘VANGUARD’ Class SSBNs.

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 if available! Have a look through your Records and ‘Ditty Boxes’ and see what you can find. Scanned copies are preferred but any original paper Lists sent will be copied and the originals returned.

You can contact me by E Mail, Snail Mail or Telephone - see Page 2.

Thanks in anticipation, Barrie Downer

DONATIONS & BEQUESTS

For anyone thinking about making Donations or leaving a Bequest in your Will please remember one of the following:

- (1) The Submariners Association
 - (2) The Submarine Fund – part of the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC) – details can be found on RNRMC Website.
 - (3) We Remember Submariners
 - (4) The Royal Navy Submarine Museum. Any Donations or Bequests for the Submarine Museum should be directed to either the ‘Friends of the Submarine Museum’ or to the ‘National Museum of the Royal Navy’.
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ON-LINE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE (OBOR)



The new OBOR has been launched!

You can find it at <https://submarineremembrance.uk/>. This is a new domain but all links to the previous submarinefamily.uk/remembrance address, including Google search results and QR code scans will all redirect to the new site.



Please browse around and I hope it will brighten up an otherwise dull weekend! You should find that it (intentionally) looks and works very much the same as the old Website but you will find it is much faster.

There are minor issues that need sorting but would be very happy to hear of any problems that you discover. Once we have fixed all the significant issues we will try to make progress toward incorporating some future developments - top of the list being to add the section on submarine memorials.

There is one annoying issue which the developers are unable to replicate, and we would welcome your help with this. It's intermittent and seems to occur for a while then go away. So what we're seeing is that, when starting to type in the search field of the people or submarines list, we get an error message. Click OK and the letters entered remain and start to narrow down the search. Type a few more letters and the same thing happens. Eventually the search narrows down to what you were looking for. The same message comes up when clicking any of the page buttons at the bottom, including records per page, but this completely prevents access to the subsequent records.

If you do, or do not, experience this error message, please let me know, together with details of computer, operating system and browser, with version numbers, that you are using.

We have made quite significant progress in adding stories for people, with about 17% achieved to date. But there is clearly a long way to go and I would welcome further assistance from any of you who feel able to help with research and story writing.

There are quite a few Submarines which are lacking a story too.

Peter Jeanneret

RNTM 09-007/25 HM SUBMARINES 125 YEARS OF SERVICE

Sponsor: Rear Admiral Submarines – RAdm A Perks MBE Andy.Perks260@mod.gov.uk

Liaison: NAVY SUBFLOT-WOSM – WO1 Neil Brownson Neil.Brownson107@mod.gov.uk

28 Jan 26

Introduction

1. The Submarine Service is celebrating its 125th Anniversary in 2026 (SM125). A year-long series of commemorations will mark this milestone. Alongside our partners across the Defence Nuclear Enterprise, the Submarine Service will acknowledge our heritage, the role of the Submarine Service as the cornerstone of national defence, whilst looking confidently into the future. The centerpiece of these events will be a Gala Dinner at Windsor Castle, Sep 26.

Programme of Events

2. The schedule of commemorative events taking place throughout 2026 is at Annex A. Where necessary, separate RNTMs will be released promulgating further details for individual serials.

3. All personnel, whether serving, veterans or members of the wider Defence Nuclear Enterprise are encouraged to fully participate in SM125. Volunteers to help support and deliver events are welcomed.

Coordination

4. SUBFLOT are responsible for the coordination of activity associated with SM125. The email address NAVY SUBFLOT-EVENTS (MULTIUSER) should be used for all matters relating to SM125 activity.
5. Any personnel interested in producing SM125-themed 'gizzets' or using SM125 branding on commemorative products are required to contact NAVY SUBFLOT-EVENTS (MULTIUSER). Support will be provided to ensure maximum visibility of any SM125-themed products whose proceeds support RNRMC/The Submarine Family or other military charities.

Communication

6. Royal Navy Communications and Influence have developed a media plan in support of SM125. They will also provide additional support for specific commemorative events where required. Units and individuals should take every opportunity to reference SM125 in internal and external messaging. This includes routine outputs such as newsletters, briefs, social media posts, and stakeholder updates. Key messages, and a brief precis of the history of the Submarine Service, is at Annex B. These messages are the cornerstone of discussing SM125 in any external and internal communications.
7. The official SM125 branding badge is provided at Annex C. The badge should be prominently featured in presentations, event materials and digital content to create a unified and recognisable brand for the anniversary. Digital copies of SM125 branding are available via NAVY SUBFLOT-EVENTS (MULTIUSER).
8. Cancel this RNTM, 31 Dec 26.

Annexes:

- A. SM125 Programme of Events
- B. SM125 Key Messages
- C. SM 125 Logo

Annex A to RNTM 09-007/25 Dated 28 Jan 25

SM125 Programme of Events

1. The schedule of remaining events commemorating SM125 is outlined below. Further information concerning booking and agenda will be published separately. Enquiries regarding events should be directed to NAVY SUBFLOT-EVENTS (MULTIUSER) in the first instance.

Event	Date	Location	Lead
International Submariners Memorial	TBC Sep 26	Dundee	International Submariners Association
Windsor Castle SM 125 Gala Dinner	TBC Sep 26	Windsor	SUBFLOT
SM 125 Thales gala dinner	02 Oct 26	Govan	Thales
Submarine Awards 26	TBC Oct 26	Glasgow	SUBFLOT
Oardacious, Trafalgar Night	22 Oct 26	Greenwich Painted Hall	Oardacious
Annual Remembrance Parade and Service	31 Oct-1 Nov 26	London	Submariners Association

SM125 Key Messages

The following are the key messages and should be used in the context of SM125.

Submarine Service History

Royal Navy Submarine Service was officially established in 1901 with the commissioning of HMS HOLLAND 1, marking the beginning of Britain's undersea warfare capability. Initially viewed with scepticism, submarines quickly proved their strategic value during World War I, where they were used for reconnaissance and offensive operations against enemy shipping. By the end of the war, the submarine had evolved from a coastal defence vessel into a formidable weapon of naval warfare.

During World War II, the Submarine Service played a critical role in disrupting Axis supply lines, particularly in the Mediterranean. Post-war, the introduction of nuclear propulsion in the 1960s transformed the service, enabling submarines to remain submerged for months and carry ballistic missiles as part of the UK's nuclear deterrent. Today, the Submarine Service remains at the heart of Britain's defence strategy, operating advanced nuclear-powered submarines that provide stealth, endurance and global reach.

Key Messages

- Since the commissioning of HOLLAND 1 in 1901, the Submarine Service has remained at the forefront of innovation, resilience and operational excellence safeguarding the nation beneath the waves.

- HM Submarine Service remains a cornerstone of national security and a symbol of professionalism and dedication. This anniversary is not only a celebration of history but a reaffirmation of the values that define the Royal Navy today.
- SM125 events unite our community, inspire the next generation, and showcase our enduring role in national security for decades to come. They recognise not just the contribution of the sailors who serve beneath the waves, but the support provided by generations of dockyard workers, engineers and civil servants who today constitute the Defence Nuclear Enterprise, all of whom provide critical support to the front-line.
- SM125 also recognises the support and sacrifices of the families of our submariners, who have provided their unfailing support to the Royal Navy Submarine Service.
- From early diesel-electric boats to today's nuclear-powered fleet, the Submarine Service has consistently demonstrated technological leadership and operational excellence.
- The seventh and final Astute Class SSN (HMS ACHILLES) will be launched in 2028. The Dreadnought Class is already in build and will swiftly follow to start relieving the Vanguard Class SSBNs of their duties. SSNA is already in development and will replace the Astute Class SSN. These new submarines are being jointly developed with Australia and the US in a first-time defence deal for the UK.

First Sea Lord orders 100-day plan to fix Royal Navy Submarine availability crisis

Defence Eye reports that General Sir Gwyn Jenkins has launched an urgent 100-day drive to tackle systemic submarine maintenance delays. He has ordered the creation of a new Submarine Maintenance Recovery Plan designed to urgently address issues causing extended patrols for the Vanguard-class and the chronically poor availability of Astute-class boats.

Speaking to officers and civil servants during a 'clear lower deck' at NCHQ in Portsmouth last month, Jenkins said the navy must start "cutting through bureaucracy to get projects and ideas progressing faster" and warned that "unnecessary processes" were undermining combat readiness across the RN, Marines, RFA, and the wider MoD. He described the next 100 days as a defining test of whether the Service can regain control of its maintenance activity.

There have been several periods in the last few years when the RN has not had a single SSN at sea. Currently, only one of the six boats in commission is operational, and four of them are at very low readiness. Maintenance backlogs have also forced the four Vanguard-class SSBNs to remain on deterrent patrol for six months or more, almost doubling their intended length, placing additional strain on crews and equipment. "The nuclear deterrent is my number one priority and that is a whole force effort" Sir Gwyn said.

A core part of his directive focuses on rethinking the £1bn-plus Clyde 2070 infrastructure programme, which is intended to prepare the base for the Dreadnought-class and replace ageing jetties and equipment to support an expanding submarine fleet into the 2070s. (Note: Project EUSTON to procure floating dry docks at Faslane is part of a separate initiative).

A new model of delivery intended to give naval officers greater influence over work managed by contractors and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation may be required. "We need to agree how the Clyde 2070 programme will be owned and how the Navy will play its part in successfully delivering it," Jenkins told staff, signalling frustration with existing oversight arrangements that have led to repeated delays and cost increases.

Sir Gwyn's comments reflect a growing impatience with what he termed "red tape that stops you doing your jobs". He has urged senior officers to shed bureaucratic habits and empower front-line teams, saying the Navy must "focus on the things that matter" and "make the organisation more agile". The First Sea Lord also underlined that the Service must embrace new technologies more quickly: "We are in an age of great technological change, and our job is to keep up. We want to wield the latest technology in pursuit of our enemies, innovation not just in systems, but in how we work."

Jenkins' decision to place his personal authority behind this initiative reflects a recognition that the situation has become untenable. Whether his '100-Day Challenge' can overcome years of decline and restore the credibility of the UK's submarine enterprise will be a critical early test of his leadership. He will likely find himself up against a government system enabled by civil servants, quangos, unions and lawyers, many of whom are addicted to bureaucracy, inertia, risk aversion and adherence to process over common sense. Tight budgets and a shortage of qualified people also add to the difficulties. Either way, Jenkins' efforts and his unwillingness to accept the status quo should be heartily applauded, and we wish him every success.

HRH PRINCE WILLIAM JOINS ROYAL NAVY AT HM NAVAL BASE FASLANE TO MARK 125th ANNIVERSARY OF SUBMARINE SERVICE

ROYAL NAVY MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 5th June 2026

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS Prince William joined Royal Navy submariners and their families on Tuesday, 2nd June, to help mark the 125th anniversary of the Submarine Service.

Prince William, who is known as the Duke of Rothesay in Scotland and is Commodore-in-Chief of the Submarine Service, visited HM Naval Base Clyde, the navy's operating base for its Submarine Flotilla.

Welcoming him to the military site was Rear Admiral Andy Perks MBE, Head of the Submarine Service, and Commodore Ben Haskins CBE, Commander of the Submarine Flotilla, who were joined by Naval Base Commander Clyde, Commodore Sharon Malkin CBE ADC.



"It was a great honour to welcome His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, Commodore-in Chief of the Submarine Service, to HM Naval Base Clyde," said Rear Admiral Andy Perks.

"The Prince of Wales spent time with our people, recognising the skill, dedication and teamwork that define the Submarine Service. From maintaining our Strategic Deterrent to delivering operations worldwide, our people work quietly but tirelessly, and this visit was a valued acknowledgement of their extraordinary contribution."

The Royal Navy Submarine Service began with the arrival of its first vessel, HOLLAND 1, in 1901. The Navy recruited six officers under the command of Captain Reginald Bacon who was appointed “*Inspecting Captain of Submarines*”.

Initially dismissed as “*underhand, unfair, and damned un-English*”, submarines quickly proved their worth as effective weapons of war.

By the start of the First World War in 1914, the Silent Service had grown to 168 officers and 1,250 Ratings. During the conflict, the Submarine Service was awarded five of the Royal Navy’s Victoria Crosses and went on to earn a total of 14 during its 125-year history.

Commander of the Submarine Flotilla, Commodore Ben Haskins, said:

“It was a true privilege to welcome the Duke of Rothesay to the home of the Submarine Service as our Commodore-in-Chief.

The visit was particularly special in this the 125th Anniversary year of the commissioning of the first Royal Navy submarine, HMS HOLLAND 1.

“His Royal Highness’ support to our superb submariners and enthusiasm for the Service are humbling. Together, we share a commitment to improving the conditions of service for those within the Flotilla and their families, and this close relationship continues to make a meaningful difference to our people.”

While at the Faslane site, Prince William took the opportunity to meet with women in the Submarine Service as part of his ongoing efforts to learn about the experiences and welfare of women in the armed forces.

He also toured a Vanguard Class submarine, one of four which maintain the UK’s nuclear deterrent. While onboard the vessel he presented trainees with their Gold Dolphins – the badge that signifies they have successfully completed training to become fully qualified Royal Navy submariners.

Among them was Drew, a 19-year-old submariner, who has recently completed his ten-week submarine training course.

“To have His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales present my Dolphins is an absolute privilege and an experience I will remember for the rest of my life,” said Drew.

“My dad and brother, who are both in the Royal Air Force, are jealous that I was presented with my Dolphins by the future King. My mum is jealous too, but also very proud.”

Travelling to the nearby Drumfork Community Centre in Helensburgh, His Royal Highness finished his visit by meeting with the often “silent heroes” of the Silent Service – the families of submariners.

Kayleigh, whose husband was onboard the Vanguard Class submarine during the Prince’s visit earlier in the day, said:

“I was very nervous to meet him, but he was incredibly kind and a warm person. It was an honour to meet him.

“It is sometimes hard to be part of the submarine community so it is nice to be recognised, especially on this occasion, by the Prince.”

Kayleigh was accompanied by her ten-year-old daughter, Olivia, who said:

“The Prince was much taller than I expected!”

Today, the Royal Navy Submarine Service provides the UK with unique military capabilities. Submarines can operate undetected, contribute to intelligence gathering, special operations, and can carry out surprise attacks.

They also provide a deterrent effect. The Royal Navy’s Vanguard Class submarines contribute to the delivery of the UK’s Continuous At Sea Deterrent (CASD), a mission which has been fulfilled, unbroken, since 1969.

From the 2030s the nuclear deterrent baton will be passed to a new generation of submarines – the Dreadnought Class.

The UK government is investing millions of pounds at HM Naval Base Clyde to prepare for the Dreadnought vessels. Last year, a £270M investment package was approved – an initial three-year funding to be used to adapt and improve infrastructure at the Clyde base.

Part of the improvements include the construction of four new Single Living Accommodation (SLA) blocks. The first two, earmarked for Submariner students undertaking training at Clyde’s new Royal Navy Submarine Training Centre (RNSTC), are scheduled to open later this year.

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

Photographs:

Other pictures of the visit can be downloaded from the following link: [Royal visit to Faslane](#)

NEW SUBMARINER HOUSING TAKES SHAPE AT HM NAVAL BASE CLYDE

Construction of new accommodation for submariners at HM Naval Base Clyde has reached a milestone with the placement of the final parapet and prefabricated concrete panel on the fourth of four new blocks, the Royal Navy has said.

The panels, weighing between 10 and 18 tonnes and spanning three to five metres wide, have been used to build the four blocks, two of which are designed specifically for submariner trainees, under a £166 million project delivered for the Royal Navy by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and its industry partner, Kier Graham Defence. The work forms part of the Clyde Infrastructure Programme, the wider effort to prepare the base to operate and maintain the Dreadnought class submarines that will succeed the Vanguard class as the platform for the UK's continuous at-sea nuclear deterrent.

Captain Elaine Boyd, Captain of HMS Neptune, attended the placement of the final panel alongside Base Executive Officer Commander Nick Stewart and First Lieutenant Commander Phil Nicholson. "Reaching this stage of construction is a significant step in delivering modern accommodation at HM Naval Base Clyde," she said. "The new blocks will provide high-quality living spaces for Service personnel, including the submariner trainees who represent the future of the Submarine Service. As the home of the Royal Navy's submarine fleet, these facilities will support the wellbeing of our people and the continued development of the Naval Base."

The Royal Navy said the prefabricated panel method delivers a traditional style of construction while allowing faster installation, reducing the workforce required on site, cutting cost and material waste, and supporting sustainability goals. Dan Ross, DIO's Director of Nuclear Infrastructure, said: "Working with our supply chain we have demonstrated what can be achieved at pace, without compromising on quality, to provide our submariner trainees with the modern, safe accommodation they deserve. The use of prefabricated sections helps us deliver the new accommodation more quickly so our sailors can benefit from it as soon as possible."

The first two submariner trainee blocks are due to be completed and brought into use later this year, with the remaining two single living accommodation blocks scheduled to open in early 2027.

The housing project sits within a much larger construction effort at the base, where the Clyde Infrastructure Programme is delivering the multi-decade upgrade the Defence Investment Plan has committed to funding, including new floating docks to enable out-of-water engineering across the submarine fleet, in preparation for the arrival of Dreadnought and the future SSN-AUKUS attack submarines.

Royal Navy certifying Astute for under-ice operations



By George Allinson 4th March 2026

The Royal Navy seeks to maintain a certified under-ice operational capability centred on its submarine force as competition in the Arctic grows, according to a written response from the Ministry of Defence.

Responding to a series of parliamentary questions from Conservative MP James Cartledge, Defence Minister Al Curns said the capability has historically been provided by the Royal Navy's nuclear-powered submarines and is being continued through the Astute-class fleet.

Curns said: "The Royal Navy (RN) has maintained an under-ice capability centred on the Submarine Service through SWIFTSURE and TRAFALGAR class submarines and is certifying the new Astute Class to uphold this capability."

The minister also confirmed that the most recent Arctic Ice Exercise conducted by a Royal Navy submarine took place in 2018 - HMS Trenchant conducted the last Ice Exercise in 2018."

When asked whether another such exercise is planned during the current Parliament, the Ministry of Defence declined to provide details of future submarine operations. Carns stated: “It is the longstanding policy of this Department not to comment on future submarine operations.”

The Government also linked the capability to the evolving strategic environment in the Arctic region. Carns noted that the Strategic Defence Review has identified the High North and Arctic as areas of increasing geopolitical competition.

Carns added that the Government is examining options to address this environment through the defence planning process. “The Strategic Defence Review highlighted the High North and Arctic as an increasing area of competition for the UK, and the Defence Investment Plan is considering a range of options to meet this threat.”

George Allison is the founder and editor of the UK Defence Journal. He holds a degree in Cyber Security from Glasgow Caledonian University and specialises in naval and cyber security topics. George has appeared on national radio and television to provide commentary on defence and security issues. Twitter: @geoallison

CHANGES IN THE BARROW SHIPYARD

The redevelopment of the Barrow Shipyard to support the Dreadnought Programme and future AUKUS Submarine Programmes has been going on for a good few years now. All those working in the shipyard who cross the Michaelson Road Bridge on a regular basis and look towards the Devonshire Dock Hall will know that work on the new ‘Wet Dock Quay’ has been progressing slowly - but mainly out of view. The recent progress on the supporting building and offices is a lot more visible as will be seen below. No doubt that as soon as the rest of the cladding has been installed the outfitting of the building & the offices will soon be underway.

Those who look out on the Buccleuch Dock side of Michaelson Road will see a very large empty space where the former ASTUTE store used to be – demolition has been going on for a number of months now and is all but complete. It appears to be currently in use as an overflow car park – possibly because the Waterfront Car Park on Barrow Island is out of use by BAE at present - but no doubt work will soon start on new Buildings.



HMS TRUMP - SHIPS BELL – A BIT OF A MYSTERY?



During their recent Official Visit to America the King and Queen exchanged gifts with Donald Trump and the First Lady, with the Royal couple giving the US President the Ships Bell from a historic submarine. Donald Trump officially welcomed King Charles and Queen Camilla with an unprecedented military ceremony on the lawns of the White House on Tuesday 27th April

King Charles paid tribute to America's 'special relationship' with the UK by giving him the Bell from the HMS TRUMP, a WWII submarine which served in the Pacific in the latter part of the war.

'I'm delighted to present to you the original Bell which hung on the conning tower of your valiant namesake. May it stand as a testimony to our nation's shared history and shining future,' the King said. 'Should you ever need to get hold of us, just give us a ring,' he added, as the crowd laughed.

Barrow Branch Member Peter Schofield served in HMS TRUMP when the Submarine was based in Australia with the 4th Submarine Flotilla in Sydney and is surprised by this gift. Given that it was thought that the HMS TRUMP Ships Bell was held as an artefact by the Submarine Museum Peter wonders where they got the Bell from to gift it to the President. George Malcolmson, who was for many years a fixture in the Submarine Museum also wonders how the Bell became available for gifting to the President.

AUKUS: Key figures back calls for huge investment in Barrow

The Mail 29th April 2024

Barrow in Furness

By Tom Cockburn, Reporter

Key local Barrow figures and organisations have backed a report outlining the need for a £1billion cash injection into Barrow. A report into AUKUS, the United Kingdom's landmark security deal with the United States and Australia, has been published by the House of Commons Defence Committee. It said Barrow urgently needed extra central government funding, alongside private sector cash, to help with its regeneration due to its importance to AUKUS and national security. The total cost of the funding for the regeneration project is estimated to be £1 billion, according to Lord Simon Case, the chair of the Team Barrow Delivery Board.

Team Barrow is tasked with overseeing the town's regeneration.



Michelle Scrogg MP and members of the House of Commons Defence Committee in Barrow

(Image: Michelle Scrogg MP Facebook)

So far, the government has only committed approximately £200 million in funding to Team Barrow via the Barrow Transformation Fund. Additionally, a 'crucial' and 'timely investment' into BAE Systems' Barrow submarine shipyard is also needed soon, according to the report. There could be 'serious consequences' for UK national security and the nation's credibility with the US and Australia if such investments are not made, the committee warned. Under the landmark AUKUS deal, Australia

will acquire nuclear-powered submarines from the UK and the US.

Michelle Scrogham, MP for Barrow and Furness, a member of the Defence Committee, reiterated much of the language that is seen throughout the published document. In relation to Barrow, Mrs Scrogham said the report highlights “the scale and urgency of the task ahead and the need for additional funding to provide the necessary improvements in housing, healthcare, town regeneration, transport and education.”



Lord Simon Case (left), chair of Team Barrow's Delivery Board, seen here as cabinet secretary next to Boris Johnson

(Image: NQ Archive)

The success of regenerating Barrow is key to trying to mitigate any potential 'skills drain' of the UK's submarine industrial base in Barrow, which could also risk national security, the report said. This is because, as part of AUKUS, the Australian government has committed to building new submarine facilities in Perth and Adelaide. As a result, the Defence Committee urged the government to make sure that 'efforts to streamline workforce movements [between AUKUS partners] do not inadvertently create a detriment to the UK's submarine industrial base'.

Reacting to the publishing of the new AUKUS report, a Team Barrow spokesperson said the organisation 'welcomed' the document and its calls

for extra government funding for the regeneration project. The spokesperson added: “Team Barrow is committed to transforming the town to enable the successful delivery of the AUKUS programme, by creating a place where people can live, work and thrive, and where our community sees and feels the benefits of this once-in-a-generation opportunity.”



BAE Systems in Barrow

Meanwhile, a BAE Systems spokesperson said: “We continue to work closely with our customers and partners on the SSN-AUKUS programme as we advance progress on the detailed design phase and procurement of long-lead items for the new submarines. "Substantial work has also commenced to increase the capability, capacity and resilience of infrastructure, both in Barrow and across the supply chain, to meet future delivery rates and secure the long-term benefits of the submarine enterprise.” A spokesperson for the Ministry of Defence said: “As set out in the Strategic Defence Review, we remain fully committed to delivering next-generation capabilities through AUKUS into the Armed Forces of all three countries. “Through our government's record investment in Barrow and Derby, we will produce a submarine every 18 months and will allow us to grow our nuclear-powered attack submarine fleet to up to 12.”

Thoughts on the proposed Fleet of 12 SSNs

Might it help if the 'Powers That Be' fronted up with more funding/support for further development (infrastructure) in the Barrow Shipyard? Should it include a 2nd Stream 'Build Line' to support the stated aim of a 12 boat AUKUS/SSN programme - with boats to be delivered with an 18 month 'drumbeat'.

Such a 2nd Stream Build Line might need to be outwith the current Devonshire Dock Footprint - say off the Buccleuch Dock - but still allowing access to the New Wet Dock Quay for 'Outfitting' work and the exit into the Walney Channel. But this would need urgent and costly Infrastructure work including a new Build Hall - 'DDH2' and possibly a second Shiplift!

The 18 month 'drumbeat' sounds familiar as many of you may recall. At the start of the ASTUTE programme in 2003 the ASTUTES were to be delivered on a similar 18 month drumbeat! But that soon shifted (MoD decisions) firstly to 21 months and later to 24 months and, currently, only five (nearly six) out of seven ASTUTES have been delivered in some 275 months (a 40 month drumbeat?) and one (HMS ASTUTE) is already in its 'Mid Life Update' programme after 15 years in Service!.

Might it also help if the Royal Navy Submarine Service has a higher ranking Senior Officer - with its own Flag Officer? Whilst there is no issue with the current Leadership a higher Rank and a higher number of Rings on a Sleeve wouldn't be out of place for an Organisation which currently manages the Vanguard Class National Deterrent Force and the current Astute Class SSN fleet. It will soon be overseeing the replacement Dreadnought Class National Deterrent Force coming into service and a soon to be 12 strong SSN Force!.

HMS AGAMEMNON TO LEAVE BARROW



The Royal Navy's sixth Astute-class attack submarine, HMS AGAMEMNON, is in the final stages of commissioning and is expected to depart Barrow-in-Furness to begin sea trials by the end of 2026, the Ministry of Defence stated in a written answer to a parliamentary question.

Liberal Democrat MP James MacCleary had asked the Secretary of State for Defence when HMS AGAMEMNON was expected to be fully operational.

Minister for Defence Readiness and Industry Luke Pollard replied: "HMS AGAMEMNON is in the final stages of commissioning, and we continue to work closely with industry partners to deliver the submarine by the end of 2026, at which point she is expected to depart Barrow and commence sea trials." He continued: "For security reasons, we do not disclose specific timelines for full operational capability, which will be dependent on the successful completion of these trials."

The reluctance to set out a date for full operational capability is consistent with longstanding MoD practice on the submarine fleet. The dates at which individual boats achieve operational status, the work-up patterns that precede them and the patrol patterns that follow are treated as classified information across the Royal Navy's underwater enterprise.

Pollard's answer confirms only the broad sequencing from commissioning through departure to sea trials, leaving the period between trials and front-line tasking unstated.

HMS AGAMEMNON is the sixth of seven Astute class submarines being built by BAE Systems at Barrow-in-Furness for the Royal Navy. The class, designed and built to replace the Trafalgar class boats, provides the Royal Navy's nuclear-powered attack submarine capability and is configured to carry Spearfish heavyweight torpedoes and Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles. The first five boats, HMS ASTUTE, HMS AMBUSH, HMS ARTFUL, HMS AUDACIOUS and HMS ANSON, are now in service, with HMS ACILLIES, the seventh and final boat of the class, in build behind HMS AGAMEMNON.

HMS AGAMEMNON was launched at Barrow in October 2024. The boat's transition from build through commissioning to sea trials will, on the timeline set out in Pollard's answer, see it leave the Devonshire Dock Hall by the end of 2026 to begin the long process of trials and work-up that traditionally precedes acceptance into front-line service. For previous boats of the class that process has taken several years.

The Astute class, alongside the four Vanguard class ballistic missile submarines, constitutes the totality of the Royal Navy's nuclear-powered submarine force. The boats operate from HM Naval Base Clyde at Faslane, alongside the Vanguard force, and are tasked across roles ranging from the protection of the continuous at-sea nuclear deterrent to intelligence collection, strike operations and maritime interdiction.

Construction of the first SSN-AUKUS attack submarine will begin next year

The 2026 Defence Investment Plan (DIP) confirms the commitment to build up to 12 of the next-generation boats for the Royal Navy. The plan states the UK is “*building up to 12 next-generation SSN-A nuclear powered, conventionally armed attack submarines, and we will cut steel on the first boat next year,*” adding that “*these will be the same class of submarines that Australia will also build under AUKUS.*” Alongside the boats themselves, the document lists investment in weapons systems and sensors for underwater drones as the signature project under AUKUS Pillar 2, the strand of the partnership covering advanced technologies rather than the submarines.

SSN-AUKUS is the successor to the Astute class, a design based on the UK’s next-generation attack submarine adapted to incorporate American and Australian technology under the trilateral partnership. The British boats will be built by BAE Systems at Barrow-in-Furness with their reactors manufactured by Rolls-Royce at Raynesway in Derby, the same sites building the Dreadnought ballistic missile submarines, and Australia plans to construct boats of the same class at Osborne in South Australia, having also arranged to buy three American Virginia-class submarines to bridge the gap until its own production line is running. Defence minister Lord Coaker revealed this week that the fifth SSN-AUKUS reactor is already in manufacture at Raynesway, where Rolls-Royce has broken ground on a doubling of the site.

The plan supports the build with a series of industrial commitments across the Defence Nuclear Enterprise, including a Submarine Build Modernisation effort to expand manufacturing capacity, accelerate production and improve productivity in support of AUKUS, the expansion of reactor core manufacturing at Raynesway for the UK and Australian navies, a multi-decade infrastructure programme at HM Naval Base Clyde to ready the base for Dreadnought and SSN-A boats, three floating docks at Faslane enabling out-of-water engineering for all submarine classes, and dock upgrades at Devonport. A Nuclear Fuels Programme backed by £1.7 billion will explore re-establishing a nuclear fuel cycle for defence reactor fuel, and the Defence Nuclear Enterprise will invest over £290 million in nuclear skills.

The steel cut will come with Barrow already at an unprecedented tempo, with the final Astute completing, the four Dreadnought boats in build following the start of construction on HMS KING GEORGE VI last year, and the first SSN-A joining them on the ways. Overall nuclear deterrent spending in the plan runs to £63 billion over the next four years across Dreadnought, SSN-AUKUS and the warhead programme, and the government is targeting a drumbeat of a new submarine every 18 months from the expanded Barrow and Raynesway facilities, a rate some analysis has described as demanding without further capacity growth.

George Allison

George Allison is the founder and editor of the UK Defence Journal. He holds a degree in Cyber Security from Glasgow Caledonian University and specialises in naval and cyber security topics. George has appeared on national radio and television to provide commentary on defence and security issues. Twitter: @geoallison

Delivery of the Royal Navy’s next-generation attack submarine fleet is conditional!

Delivery of the Royal Navy’s next-generation attack submarine fleet is conditional on productivity improvements at the Barrow shipyard, Minister for Defence Readiness and Industry Luke Pollard has told the House of Commons, as the government declined to put an exact figure on how many boats will be built.

Shadow defence secretary James Cartlidge pressed the minister at defence questions, noting that the headline promise of the Strategic Defence Review on its publication in June 2025 was a commitment to buy up to 12 attack submarines, that the government could not say at the time how many that meant in practice, and that ministers had promised the detail of the review’s commitments would be set out in the Defence Investment Plan. “*So exactly how many attack submarines are they going to buy?*” he asked.

“*The defence investment plan clearly sets out our intention to buy up to 12 SSN-AUKUS submarines,*” Pollard replied “*Their delivery is conditional on the improvements in productivity that we are working with BAE Systems to deliver at Barrow, not just in workforce but in production shipyard facilities. We plan to buy up to 12 SSN-AUKUS submarines.*”

The answer maintains the “*up to 12*” formulation that has stood since the Strategic Defence Review, while attaching the delivery of the fleet explicitly to output at Barrow-in-Furness, where BAE Systems builds the Royal Navy’s submarines. The Defence Investment Plan confirmed that steel will be cut on the first SSN-AUKUS boat next year (2027), with the class replacing the Astute-class attack submarines and shared with Australia under the AUKUS partnership, and the government is targeting a production drumbeat of a new submarine every 18 months from the expanded Barrow and Raynesway facilities, a rate analysis has described as demanding without further capacity growth.

The conditionality Pollard described is matched by heavy investment in the capacity it depends on. The plan includes a Submarine Build Modernisation effort to expand manufacturing capacity, accelerate production and

improve productivity in support of AUKUS, alongside £6 billion for expanding and transforming submarine manufacturing between 2025-26 and 2029-30, while Rolls-Royce has broken ground on a doubling of its Raynesway reactor site, where defence minister Lord Coaker revealed last week that the fifth SSN-AUKUS reactor is already in manufacture.

Barrow is simultaneously completing the final Astute-class boat and building all four Dreadnought ballistic missile submarines, and overall deterrent spending in the plan runs to £63 billion over the next four years across Dreadnought, SSN-AUKUS and the warhead programme.

AROUND THE BRANCHES HMS SIDON MEMORIAL SERVICE



On the 16th June 2026 members of the Dorset Branch of the Submariners Association and guest met at the SIDON Memorial on Portland to commemorate the sinking of Submarine SIDON on the 16th June 1955 with the loss of 13 lives. It was a pleasure to meet up with Gill Dash whose father Surgeon Lieutenant Rhodes lost his life rescuing men from the Boat after the explosion He was awarded the Albert Medal for his actions on the day. Gill was a baby in arms when her father died and regularly attends the services proudly wearing Her fathers medal. Also with us was Eileen Deacon whose husband Gordon was a survivor of the accident, Gordon Crossed the Bar a couple of years ago and as per his request his ashes were scattered at the scene of SIDONs sinking.

Memorial Service Rothesay & Port Bannatyne 6th June 2026



Every year the Scottish Branch of the Submariners Association would visit Rothesay on the Isle of Bute during their annual Dunoon Memorial Weekend. This visit was initiated by the West of Scotland Branch of the Submariners Association to commemorate the accident with the X-Craft EX-11 in Loch Striven during WWII in

which three crew members lost their lives and with two other crew members surviving, one of them being First. Lt. Bill Morrison, a member of the West of Scotland Branch of the SA.

Three years ago both Branches decided that the limited time available during the Dunoon to Lochranza trip was too short to do the commemoration of the crew of EX-11 and indeed the 12 Flotilla of X-Craft Submarines properly justice. A new idea came up. In future a separate Service would be organised by Cdr. Chris Leggett MBE RN Ret. of the West of Scotland Branch on the first weekend in June of every year.

XE11 Tragedy:

Operation of the X-Craft was hazardous at best, but on March 5th, 1945, even routine testing was to prove fatal. On this day, three of the crew of XE11 were lost during a routine operational test dive, while calibrating their depth gauge. A two men crew would normally have been sufficient, but on this day, three extra crew members were being carried to gain more experience. Rising in 10 foot increments from a depth of 100 feet, the craft struck the keel of the boom defence vessel Norma, stationary and silent, just at the moment when her screws began to turn. The X Craft pressure hull was ruptured, and she sank to 210 feet. When the hatch was opened, two crew members were swept out by the escaping air and recovered on the surface. Sadly, the remaining three crew members were unable to escape. Their bodies were recovered by divers the next day, along with the craft, and laid to rest at Rothesay Cemetery.

At 210 feet, the event is listed in the Guinness Book of records as the deepest unaided ascent from a sunken submarine.

In 2005, a small memorial garden was opened during events on the island, marking the 60th anniversary of VE Day. The ceremony was attended by the surviving crew member who related the story of escape, Bill Morison.

Those remembered:

Lieutenant Aubrey Staples, South African Naval Forces (V) Commanding Officer

Able Seaman J J Carroll Royal Navy

Stoker 1st Class E.W. Higgins Royal Navy

Those who survived:

First Lieutenant, Sub-Lt Bill Morrison RNVR

ERA Les Swatton Royal Navy

There are many historic successes of X-Craft Submarines such as the attack on the Tirpitz, D Day landing operations, Far East operations damaging Japanese vessels and cutting of communication cables and any others.

A total of 39 men were killed while serving on these craft, and testimony to their bravery are 68 awards gained on active service, including four Victoria Crosses. A memorial record is displayed at St Ninian Church in Port Bannatyne.

Last Saturday 6th May 2026 Members of the West of Scotland and Scottish Branch and including members of the Scottish Legion and local dignitaries carried out the annual Memorial Service for the crew members of XE11 and the brave men that served in the 12th Flotilla at Rothesay Cemetery and the Memorial Garden in Port Bannatyne expertly led by local Rev. Douglas Allan.

Thank you to those that attended this year event and a serious message to those that could not attend to come and join us next time for this prestigious event to commemorate these brave men. Many thanks to Cdr. Chris Leggett to take the initiative and organise this event.

Author: Ronald Rietveld

Chairman/Secretary Scottish Branch

Merseyside Submariners Association

Valour - announcement of funding - April 2026

Authors: Charlie & Sue Neve

VALOUR is a Government initiative designed to make it easier for veterans, Serving Personnel, and their families across the UK to access the care and support they deserve. It strengthens existing services by improving coordination, building on what works, and helping local support align around the individual's needs.

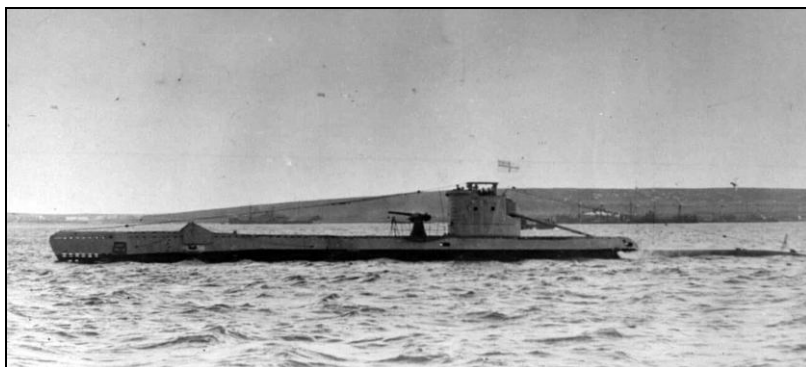
The Armed Forces Community HQ, based in Wigan, and founded by Gill Molyneux and Cdr Charlie Neve RN, (Ret'd) are honoured to announce that they have been selected as one of the first regional hubs for the Office for Veterans' Affairs national programme: VALOUR. With almost £1m funding over 3 years.

AFCHQ, within Greater Manchester, was part of the VALOUR Pathfinder project that showcased the regional expertise and knowledge, informing the national VALOUR Blueprint, which will be launched nationally this year.

The Secretary of State for Defence, John Healey and Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham made a visit to Wigan and the AFCHQ, Thursday 16th April, to witness for themselves the work the AFCHQ does in this important veterans' sector. Find out more here: [Armed Forces Community HQ](#)



Tragic WW2 submarine HMS URGE remembered in Wales



HMS URGE

28 April 2026

Royal Navy submariners and the people of Bridgend gathered on a glorious spring morning to remember the Welsh town's WW2 submarine.

Eighty-five years ago, townsfolk raised an incredible £300,000 – roughly £35m today – to adopt HMS URGE, a then brand-new U-class submarine which was deployed to the Mediterranean.

She proved to be the scourge of Italian shipping, damaging one of Mussolini's battleships, sinking a cruiser, attacking merchant vessels vital to supporting Italo-German forces in North Africa, and launching raids by the fledgling Special Boat Service – all under the banner of the Malta-based 10th Submarine Flotilla.

Contemporaries regarded both the boat and her crew highly – some even argued her skipper Lieutenant Commander Edward Philip Tomkinson deserving of the Victoria Cross.

It was not to be and URGE's luck ran out when she departed Malta for the Royal Navy base at Alexandria in Egypt on 27 April 1942. Aboard were not just her crew, but 11 additional naval personnel and a war correspondent.



A diver's torch casts light on the wreck of HMS URGE off Malta

She never reached her destination and it is believed that she struck a German mine shortly after departure; it wasn't until a maritime archaeology diving expedition from the University of Malta discovered the wreck of the submarine, in October 2019, was the actual fate of the boat was revealed.

Today, two memorials were subsequently erected to the boat and her crew: one in Malta, the other in Bridgend where submariners, remaining family members and town officials gather annually to pay their respects.

"I knew about the town's connection with the Royal Navy and when we found out about the memorial service for HMS URGE, we jumped at the opportunity to come and celebrate with Bridgend," said

Chief Petty Officer Richard Humphreys, who hails from Bridgend and led the small team of submariners paying their respects to the men of URGE.



"This year we commemorate 125 Years of the Submarine Service, that's a lot of history behind us, it's important. It's these core traditions that keep us together and make sure our younger submariners understand how we have a rich and ever-evolving history."

Bridgend's Mayor, Councillor Ian Spiller, said the presence of today's submariners at the service "strengthens the link between past and present, and we thank them for their dedication, duty and service.

"For our town, this is a story of real significance and enduring pride. HMS URGE was proudly adopted and supported by the people of Bridgend during the war. In a time of hardship and uncertainty, our community came together to fund this submarine, forging a lasting bond between the town and all those who served aboard her.

“Today, we honour the courage and sacrifice of her crew. We remember that each of them was more than a sailor, they were sons, brothers, friends, and loved ones. Their service and sacrifice remain part of our town’s shared history and identity.”

Pictures of the Service of Remembrance courtesy of Graham Davies/Bridgend Town Council

Pictures of HMS URGE’s wreck courtesy of the University of Malta

Submariners Memorial Service At the National Memorial Arboretum 2026



This year around 250 serving and veteran submariners and their families gathered at the National Memorial Arboretum for the annual service. We Remember Submariners organise this simple but very moving service which included contributions from all parts of the submarine family and wreath laying by organisations and those who have been bereaved. David Parry read his poem Submariner Memorial which is reproduced below. Much more of David’s work is in the book [Deep Thoughts](#) – see the friends of the SM Museum Website- sales of which raised over £550 shared between Friends and Friends of the Holbrook Submarine Museum in NSW.



Submariner Memorial -A Poem by David Parry

Can the restless wave know who is asleep,
Down in the dark, down in the deep?
Can the fish know what friends they have,
In the watery cenotaph?

Can dolphins tell their silent tales,
And share their gossip with the whales?
Can the earth remember those it bore,
Those who had to leave its shore?

Can the families who said farewell,
Recover from the tolling bell?
Will the country e'er recall with pride,
Those who in the mighty ocean died

Those who knew the klaxon's cry,
Did not know that they would die.
Those who lived with valve and vent,
Did not look for our lament.

But the boats they loved have turned to rust.
And their bones have now turned to dust.
So let this memorial forever be,
Though it stands far from the sea,

A sanctuary for any day
A place for us to reflect and say
Lord God of hosts be with us yet,
Lest we forget – lest we forget

CAMMELL LAIRD SHIPYARD SOLD

Story by Graeme Whitfield

© Craig Connor/ChronicleLive

Some of the best known names in UK shipbuilding have been sold in a deal that creates a leading player in the ship repair and refitting sectors. Maritime group Balaena has bought APCL Group to add the A&P yard on the Tyne, Cammell Laird at Birkenhead, Merseyside, and A&P Falmouth and Falmouth Docks and Engineering Company, in Cornwall. The company already has facilities at Gibraltar and at Padstow, Cornwall.

The deal - which has been welcomed by unions - will give Balaena a network of 12 dry docks and strategic reach across the UK and the Mediterranean. It said it would be able to play a bigger role in the UK defence sector, with the deal coming just a few days after Defence Secretary John Healy indicated he wanted to give more MoD work to UK firms. As well as defence, Balaena said it would be able to work in the offshore energy, cargo, cruise, and ferry sectors. Balaena is planning to invest in modernising facilities at A&P, Cammell Laird and Falmouth, as well as launching a new skills and apprenticeship programme in association with local colleges and training providers.

Simon Gillett, founder and group chief executive officer of Balaena, said: "We are delighted to welcome APCL Group into Balaena. This acquisition reinforces our long-term commitment to British maritime capability - creating jobs, expanding apprenticeships, and driving innovation in line with the ambitions of the Strategic Defence Review and the UK's Industrial Strategy.

"By uniting Balaena's vision and ambition with APCL's skilled teams in Tyne, Birkenhead, and Falmouth, we are strengthening the UK's ability to deliver for both the Royal Navy and the global commercial maritime sector, while investing in the next generation of British shipbuilders and engineers".

David McGinley (CEO of APCL Group) said: "Joining Balaena marks an exciting new chapter for APCL and our workforce. It secures the future of our shipyards, allows new investment in digital and green shipbuilding technologies, and renews our commitment to working closely with local communities on Tyne, Birkenhead, and Falmouth to create jobs, apprenticeships, and lasting prosperity".

The deal will give Balaena a combined workforce of over 2,000 employees and operations spanning Gibraltar, Padstow, Hebburn, Birkenhead, and Falmouth. It also keeps alive some of the best known names in UK shipbuilding, with Cammell Laird dating back to the early 19th century and A&P being in operation since the 1970s.

Matt Roberts, GMB national officer and president of the Confederation of Shipbuilding & Engineering Unions (CSEU), said: "This deal gives certainty after months of speculation and allows our members and the yards at Cammell Laird, A&P Falmouth and A&P Tyne to move forward together. GMB has been clear our members want a solution that kept the three yards together as a strong and complimentary group, so we welcome this deal. There is great capability and delivery across these yards.

"We look forward to working with the new owners to ensure we continue to grow UK sovereign capability and increase local jobs and apprenticeships in Merseyside, west Cornwall, and on Tyneside.

"GMB continue to demand an end to the inexcusable sending of British shipbuilding and repair work overseas. The Labour Government must fully make good on this change, and ensure all domestic work goes to the UK shipyards, including these yards now owned by Balaena."

PROJECT EUSTON UPDATE

Programme Euston will be one of the most significant and sustained government investments in Scotland over the coming decades, the Ministry of Defence has said, with employment and training in the local area set to rise as the work gets under way. The assessment was set out by the Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence, Lord Coaker, in response to a written question from the Labour peer Lord Beamish, who had asked what assessment the government had made of the number of apprenticeships that would be created in Scotland and the north-east of England under the programme.



Coaker said the programme would be “one of the most significant and sustained Government investments in Scotland over the coming decades”, and that employment and training in the local area would rise, with the investment driving “regional economic skills and social/environmental benefits further afield”.

On the specific figures Beamish had asked about, the minister said the commercial approach for delivering the dock and shoreside elements of the programme would be finalised as part of the investment decision to be outlined following the publication of the Defence Investment Plan, and that the actual number of UK-based jobs and apprenticeships “can only be assessed following completion of the procurement process”. Programme Euston is the Royal Navy’s plan to build two floating dry docks to provide a resilient out-of-water engineering capability for its submarine fleet at HM Naval Base Clyde by the early 2030s, with a Programme Business Case due in the middle of this year and procurement decisions to follow. The scale of the investment, concentrated on the Clyde, is what underpins the minister’s billing of it as a decades-long boost for Scotland, even as the precise employment benefit remains tied to the still-undecided procurement. That investment decision, and with it the commercial model and the resulting jobs picture, is bound to the Defence Investment Plan, the spending document the government has committed to publishing before next month’s NATO summit, which has become the single point on which a long line of capability and industrial decisions now depends.

Where the docks will actually be built remains the central unanswered question around the programme, with no contract award location yet chosen. Navantia UK’s Methil yard in Fife has openly positioned itself to build them, pointing to its transformation on the back of the Seahorse barge project, while unions have pressed for the work to stay in the United Kingdom, with GMB Scotland having warned the former Defence Secretary John Healey that building the docks abroad would amount to “national self-harming on a grand scale”.

The minister’s remark on the scale of the Scottish investment is likely to feed directly into that debate over how much of the work, and how many of the jobs, actually land in the United Kingdom

The Ill-Fated Barbecue



By Jim Foster

(from the Friends of the Submarine Museum Website)

(the Picture is an AI Reconstruction)

On another occasion, HMS.....was tasked to conduct a series of Tigerfish ‘discharge’ trials in Loch Long (déjà vu HMS.....). If you were there you will know which boat it was!

There was a 24 hour delay in preparing some of these weapons for the trial and so we decided to have a barbecue on the shores of nearby Loch Goil. There was a convenient mooring buoy for us to tie up to, and we also had a friendly TRV (Torpedo Recovery Vessel) together with a couple of RIBs to help us out. It was one of those

evenings in Scotland when the wind dropped to zero yet there was almost 100% humidity which hung in the air – Scotch Mist!. We were not deterred.

We transported our barbecue (half a 50-gallon oil drum) and set it up on the shore. Most of the ship's company (bar the duty watch) were by now ashore and assisting. It was just past high water, and we had plenty of time. The Second Cox'n (the scratcher) became the self-appointed barbecue manager (mainly because the said oil drum had been stowed under his casing). Copious quantities of charcoal were loaded (kindly provided by the crew of USS Hunley – the nearby Holy Loch depot ship). The second Cox'n then attempted to light the barbecue – but to no avail. Unfortunately, the charcoal had absorbed quite a lot of the scotch mist and refused to play! He then applied half a gallon of petrol supplied by the TRV but alas, despite an initial conflagration, there was still no joy. It was then that our Petty Officer Torpedo Instructor came forward and suggested the addition of a couple of oxygen candles. These oxygen candles were chemicals compressed into a cylinder about 14 inches tall and 4 or 5 inches in diameter. They were designed to fit into a high-pressure container in the escape compartments of the submarine. They were activated by the discharge of a cordite cartridge and thence they would fizzle away, within the container, whilst giving off oxygen! Two such candles were sent for by the barbecue crew. They were removed from their containers, broken up into bits and dispersed amongst the charcoal. A further liberal helping of petrol was added and the mixture was set alight.....

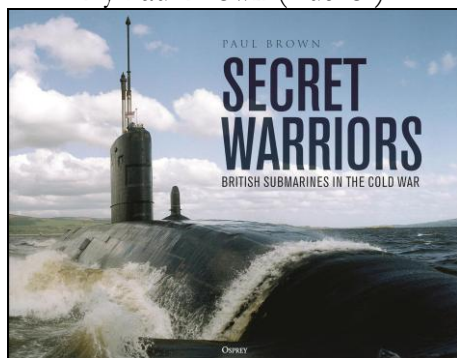
At first the petrol blazed away and hopes were set but within a few minutes the flames died down and optimism began to fade. But those who were closest to the barbecue heard a sort of hissing sound which puzzled them; and the more experienced began to move away. Suddenly, there was what seemed to be the flash of a camera followed by a blinding conflagration that lasted several minutes. There was a road running parallel to the shore, behind the beach, and a number of cars and a van had stopped in wonderment. As the blaze subsided and our eyesight recovered, we could see what appeared to be a perfectly formed mushroom cloud hovering above what used to be our barbecue. It became apparent that our 50-gallon oil drum was now a contorted lump of metal, glowing red, upon the beach. It took a while for anyone to say anything but then the Chief ERA came up to me and said "Sir, I think we should clear up this mess and then go back onboard to eat" "Good idea Chief", I said and that is what we did.

BOOKS

Normally there are only one or two books which are suggested for inclusion in IN DEPTH but, unusually, there has been a bit of a rush of suggested and recommended reading on this issue. Unfortunately I haven't got space for all of them in this issue so I have included three - a selection which, hopefully, you will find interesting

SECRET WARRIORS **British Submarines in the Cold War**

By Paul Brown (Author)



A Review

By Barrie Downer

Where to start? Submarines and the 'Cold War' is a very big subject to write about! When did it start? When did it finish? Has it actually finished? How were Royal Navy Submarines involved in the Cold War? Who were the people involved?

Most Wars have a definite start date and finish date with a declaration of War, then a period of conflict followed by a cessation of hostilities after

negotiations. Not in the case of the Cold War as there are no definite start or finish dates and there were no actual hostilities! And has it now actually finished?

The Cold War seems to have 'just developed' at some time shortly after WWII but is now generally accepted to have lasted from the later 1940s and into the 1990s ending following the 'Glasnost' and 'Perestroika' period of Boris Yeltsin and Michael Gorbachev.

However, what can be seen (as in WWI & WWII) is that Royal Navy Submarines were 'At Sea' and 'On Patrol' at the beginning, and at the end, were there for the whole duration of the 'Cold War' and, indeed, some are still 'Patrolling' to the current day.

So what was the extent of Royal Navy Submarine involvement during those Cold War years and how did the Service develop? At the beginning all Royal Navy Submarines had been designed and built either just prior to or during WWII and were 'Conventional' diesel submarines of the 'S', 'T', 'U' and 'A' Classes. Although there were several more classes of Conventional boats ('O', 'P' & 'U')

introduced in the 1960s to the late 1980s the Nuclear submarine age began for the Royal Navy in 1963. By the 1990s and the end of the Cold War all the diesel submarines had gone and the Service was wholly Nuclear with two distinct and different roles: 'General Operations & Intelligence Gathering/Surveillance' patrols by SSNs and 'Independent Nuclear Deterrent' patrols by SSBNs (299 patrols by the RESOLUTION Class Boats) and, probably a similar number by the VANGUARD Class to date.

Paul Brown's book shows that there were 15 different Classes of Submarines operated by the Royal Navy and that 119 individual 'boats' had taken part, some to a greater or lesser extent, over the Cold War period. Over the years these 'boats' had been manned by several hundred different Commanding Officers, even more hundreds of other Officers and many thousands of Engineering and Seamen Senior and Junior rates. 'Cold War' operations generally lasted up to six weeks for the Intelligence Gathering & Surveillance' patrols and up to three months for the 'Deterrent' patrols but, of late, the 'Continuous at Sea Deterrent' (CASD) patrols have been lasting up to six months at a time a very considerable effort to maintain for both man and machine.

Paul's extensive and comprehensive research and his interviews/correspondence with former Submarine Commanders, other Officers and many Submariners have allowed him to identify not only the operations of, and employment of, each of the Classes of RN Boats employed during the Cold War period but also many of the people who actually served in them at the time and some of the close encounters, collisions, incidents and accidents which they recalled from their time onboard. Some names and incidents might be familiar to some readers!

'Secret Warriors' is a book you might need read in more than one sitting – there is so much information there you might not take all in at once – but it is well worth very careful reading and, perhaps more than once, as well as 'dipping in to' from time to time.

SECRET WARRIORS

British Submarines in the Cold War

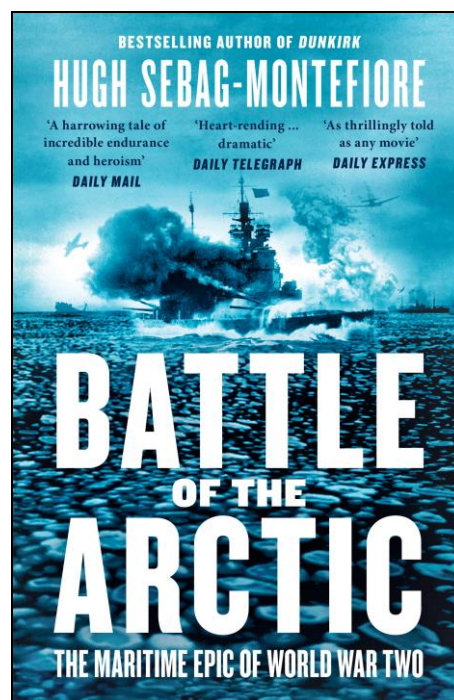
ISBN 978-1-4728-6512-0

OSPREY Publishing £45

Hardback 272 pages

www.ospreypublishing.com

BATTLE OF THE ARCTIC **The Maritime Epic of WORLD WAR Two**



By Hugh Sebag-Montefiore

5 November 2026

Format: Paperback

ISBN: 9780008335816

Price: £12.99

From the bestselling author of Dunkirk: Fight to the Last Man and Enigma: The Battle for the Code, the story of unsung heroism in World War 2's maritime epic in the Arctic.

No campaign during World War Two contained more spine-tingling drama, outstanding courage and heartbreaking tragedy than the Arctic convoys. Yet they – and the multifaceted Battle of the Arctic that had to be fought to get them through to Russia – remain one of the war's most undercelebrated feats. The action unfolded as Allied naval and merchant seamen, airmen, submariners, soldiers and intelligence officers delivered on their countries' promise to take arms to Russia notwithstanding the German attempts to hunt them in their aircraft, U-boats and surface fleet spearheaded by Tirpitz and Scharnhorst.

When ships were attacked and went down in seas so cold that a man could die after five minutes of immersion, it triggered events reminiscent of the do-or-die moments during the sinking of the Titanic. Men perished one by one in lifeboats, and as castaways on deserted Arctic islands where they were stalked by polar bears. Frostbitten and wounded survivors ended up in primitive Russian hospitals where amputations were carried out without anaesthetics. Others, while stranded for months in the communist state they were aiding, experienced

the murky worlds of the NKVD, and the gulag, as well as famine and prostitution.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Hugh Sebag-Montefiore was a barrister before becoming a journalist and historian. He has written for the Sunday Times, Sunday Telegraph, Observer, Independent on Sunday, and Mail on Sunday. He is the author of three bestselling history books, two about the 2nd World War (Enigma: The Battle for the Code and Dunkirk: Fight to the Last Man), and one about the 1st World War (Somme: Into the Breach). He also wrote Kings On The Catwalk: The Louis Vuitton Moët-Hennessy Affair.

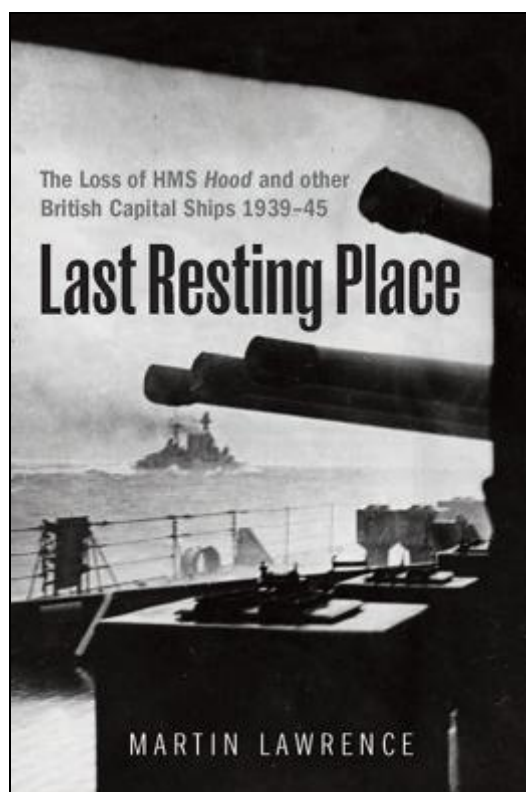
PRaise FOR THE BATTLE OF THE ARCTIC

“Excellent. Sebag-Montefiore uses wartime diaries, interviews and newly available archives from Russia to focus on the officers, armed guards and the ordinary civilian seamen.” - The Wall Street Journal
“The stories of the sailors are heart rending.” - Daily Telegraph

“Reveals the extraordinary bravery of the seamen. Impressive.” - The Times

“Brilliantly researched. A harrowing tale of incredible endurance and heroism.” - The Daily Mail
“As thrillingly told as any movie.” - Daily Express

Last Resting Place The Loss of HMS Hood and other British Capital Ships 1939–45



Author: Martin Lawrence

Highlights

- Contains new and surprising theories concerning the loss of British battleships and carriers in World War II
- Deploys concise and compelling evidence gleaned from years of research
- Illustrated throughout with maps, photographs and diagrams

Description

Last Resting Place looks at the loss of each of the ten capital ships of the Royal Navy that were sunk during the Second World War. The stories of some of the sinkings are well known and have become deemed simply part of the fortunes of war. Naval war involves battles, and in sea battles, sooner or later, protagonists are sunk.

But for some of the capital ship losses the stories of how disaster struck are not quite as straightforward. The sinking of HMS Hood, for instance, has led to questioning the verdict of the official enquiry over many years, even up to the present day. It was concluded at the time that Hood was lost to a lucky hit from Bismarck that drove through the ship and caused a magazine at the stern to catch fire. The inquiry did go through various possibilities in detail but this was the best fit of three alternatives considered and has been left to stand.

Yet Hood's record of numerous dockings for repairs before her last sortie – some of which were heavy – was never even brought up, a surprising omission and the more so since close to the outbreak of war the First Sea Lord had commented: 'she [Hood] needs a complete and total change of machinery as hers is twenty years old,' and 'the likelihood of her being able to steam at speed for any distance must be considered remote.' Why was mechanical breakdown overlooked? The author's detective work has brought to light some radical new conclusions.

Some other ships such as Ark Royal and Hermes had their wrecks located on the seabed miles away from the official recorded position of their sinking and the loss of Royal Oak in Scapa Flow was an avoidable debacle. Even more contentious was the loss of Glorious, sent to Norway to recover some hopelessly antiquated Gloster Gladiator aircraft and lost on her return when she ran into the German battleships Scharnhorst and Gneisenau. The results of the inquiry into her sinking were later locked away for 100 years, a decision that has led to much speculation about the actual purpose of her mission and what is it about it that is being hidden from public view.

In ten chapters the author dissects what happened to these fine ships, how their losses came about and where their wrecks are located; and he looks in detail

at theories, causes and conclusions surrounding the sinkings. It is a fascinating compilation for anyone interested in the history of the Royal Navy's great capital ships and sheds genuine new light on the calamitous destruction of nearly half of them during the War.

Author Details

MARTIN LAWRENCE has a professional background in a variety of technology industries that have combined mathematics, physics and engineering; and at the same time he has pursued a

lifelong interest in the work of the Armed Forces and the Royal Navy in particular.

Price: £25

Price: \$44.95

Pages: 256

Trim: 234x156

Format: Hardback

ISBN: 9781036133313

Illustrations: 50 mono illustrations

Original Pub Month: August 2025

Now Expected Month: July 2026



**Royal Navy Submarine Service
125th Anniversary Celebrations
Invitation**

Dear Branch Member and Partner,

On behalf of the Royal Navy Submarine Service and the Barrow Submariners Association, we are delighted to invite you to join us in celebrating the **125th Anniversary of the Royal Navy Submarine Service** which will take place on:

Saturday 3rd October 2026

Programme of Events

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 11:30am | Serving & Veteran Submariners Muster at AE1 & AE2 Memorial |
| 12:00pm | Main Parade at the Town Hall Forecourt |
| 12:30pm | Meet and greet in the Town Hall |
| 1:00pm | Buffet lunch and bar, including a Submarine Art Exhibition |
| 2:00pm | Concert by the Scarborough Sea Cadet Band |
| 3:00pm | Meet & Greet at the Royal British Legion, Barrow |
| 4:00pm – 8:00pm | Refreshments and entertainment at the Royal British Legion, Barrow |

This occasion will provide an opportunity to celebrate 125 years of the Royal Navy Submarine Service and recognise the proud and historic connection between the Submarine Service and the town of Barrow.

We would be honoured by your attendance.

Please RSVP by **24th July 2026** and advise us of any dietary requirements or allergies when responding.

RSVP and enquiries to:

Julian Talks Email: barrow.sa.secretary@gmail.com

SUBMARINERS 'CROSSED THE BAR'

(Reported 1st April 2026 to 30th June 2026) - Information on 'Submariners Crossed the Bar' compiled from CTBs reported by all available sources.

NAME	DATE/AGE	RANK/RATE	BRANCH	SM SERVICE	SUBMARINES
Warren Palmer (Bunny) Raynham	16th August 2022 aged 79	Electrical Artificer to Lt Commander (WESM)	We Remember Submariners	from 1960s to 1991	DOLPHIN, DREADNOUGHT, RNEC Manadon, RNC Greenwich, DEFIANCE & HM Naval Base Devonport
John Staines	9th April 2026 aged 75	Chief Petty Officer (MEM)(M)(SM)	We Remember Submariners	Not reported	including RESOLUTION (P) 'on recommissioning at Rosyth' on 27th November 1976
David Fail D169847T	April 2026 aged 65	Chief Petty Officer Marine Engineering Artificer (L)	Peterborough Branch Member No. 2909	1981 to 1986	REPULSE & CHURCHILL
Timothy Richard Duchesne	12th April 2026 aged 96	Captain RAN	Submarine Association of Australia Eastern States Member No. 2856	June 1952 to January 1985	RN TELEMACHUS (1952 to 1954), ARTEMIS (1954 to 1956), SCYTHIAN (1956 to 197), TALENT (1957 to 1959), SCOTSMAN (1959 to 1961), USS SEAWOLF (1962), ASTUTE (1964 to 1965) RAN OXLEY (1968), OTWAY (1970), Cdr SM1 RAN (August 1973 to February 1976) & Cdr RAN SM Squadron (January 1982 to January 1985)
John Battersby	14th April 2026	Weapons Engineering Mechanic (O)	We Remember Submariners	Not reported	including REPULSE
Darren (Daz) Parsons	14th April 2026	Petty Officer Marine Engineering Artificer	We Remember Submariners	1983 to 1994	including TIRELESS
Andrew Johnston D212432C	15th April 2026 aged 73	Petty Officer Weapons Engineering Artificer	We Remember Submariners & West of Scotland Branch Member No. 2067	January 1988 to 20**	REVENGE (1988 to 1992), RENOWN (1992 to 1993), REPULSE (1993 to 1996), RESOLUTION (1996), VANGUARD (2001), VIGILANT (2001 to 2002), VICTORIOUS (2002 to 2003) & VIGILANT (2003 to 20**) & VENGEANCE
Kevin Moore D081771S	23rd April 2026 aged 78	Petty Officer Cook (S)	Portsmouth Branch Member No. 3496	July 1967 to July 1982	ACHERON (1967 to 1970 on commissioning at Rosyth on 4th July 1968), ONYX (1970 to 1973) & OBERON (1975 to 1978)
Brian 'Robbo' Robinson	21st April 2026 aged 86	Petty Officer Cook	Blackpool & Fylde Branch Member No 3754	Not reported	VALIANT (on recommissioning at Chatham on 12th May 1972), SCEPTRE (1st Commission Crew) on 14th February 1978 & SETT Instructor from 1969 to 1979
David John Riis-White	29th April 2026	Warrant Officer (WE)	We Remember Submariners	Not reported	TIRELESS (March 1989 to 1992 & SCU Leydene (1996) Also served in HMS CORNWALL
Robert Thomas Hirst	30th April 2026 aged 71	Lieutenant Commander (X) (SM)(TAS)	We Remember Submariners	Not reported	COURAGEOUS (Corro 1978 to 1980), OTTER (1981), OTUS, CHURCHILL on recommissioning at Chatham on 7th May 1983), Farnborough (1989), JACIG (1991) & FERRET
Ronald Charles Frederick (Ron) Perks	1st May 2026 aged 87	Commander RCN	Submarines Association of Canada	Not reported	OPOSSUM (1965 to 1967), OJIBWA (6th CO), ONONDAGA (11th CO 2nd July 1974 to 14th July 1975), ONONDAGA (22nd CO 1st July 1982 to 6th June 1983) & 7th CO 1st RCN Submarine Squadron (August 1981 to July 1983)
Richard Leslie (Scaff) Holding D11820D	3rd May 2026 aged 72	Charge Chief Marine Engineering Artificer (EL)	We Remember Submariners	September 1979 to August 1993	RENOWN (S) (February 1979 to March 1981), SPARTAN (August 1982 & 2nd Commission Crew at Devonport on 15th October 1988 to September 1989) & DEVMAT (S & T Class Instructor September 1988 to August 1993) Also served in DIOMEDE (May to December 1981),

					DEVONSHIRE (March 1973 to December 1974) & ENDURANCE (April 1977 to August 1977) including CONQUEROR
Thomas (Tam) Millar D145200E	7th May 2026	Charge Chief Marine Engineering Artificer	We Remember Submariners	1973 to 1995	
Eric Fischer RCN	4th May 2026 aged 62	Able Seaman Sonarman	Submarines Association of Canada	Not reported	ONONDAGA & OKANAGAN
Thomas Craven	11th May 2026	Not reported	We Remember Submariners	Not reported	Not reported
David (Dave) Tucker P/M935625	15th May 2026 aged 93	Engine Room Artificer	We Remember Submariners	Not reported	NARWHAL (on Recommissioning at Rosyth) on 5th April 1967 & on 3rd January 1969), TIPTOE, TOTEM & OCELOT
John David Macan Osbourne	17th May 2026 aged 82	Commander (E) (MESM)	We Remember Submariners	Not reported	REVENGE (1970), RESOLUTION (P) (on recommissioning on 10th July 1971), REVENGE (1976), PEMBROKE (1982) & Rosyth Dockyard (1989 & 1991)
Samuel Patterson (Sam) Edgar MBE CO 20133D	18th May 2026 aged 88	Lieutenant Commander (SD) (MESM)	Former Gosport Branch Member No. 2868 & Friend of SM Museum	January 1964 to November 1987	DOLPHIN, OPOSSUM, NARWHAL, ODIN (Mechanician on Commissioning at Rosyth on 19th August 1966), OLYMPUS, SEALION & OKANAGAN (1975/1976) Also served in HMS CENTURION (1982 NL)
Michael Thompson D099246G	May 2026 aged 83	Able Seaman	We Remember Submariners	from 1963	Not reported
Allan W Thomas D099246G	29th May 2026 aged 77	LME	Australia Branch Member No.3980	1968 to 1975	RENOWN (P) (1969 to 1974), REPULSE (P) (1974) & SUPERB (1974 to 1975)
Simon Douglas Bird	30th May 2026 aged 69	Leading Weapons Electrical Mechanic (Ordnance)	We Remember Submariners	Not reported	SPARTAN (1st Commission Crew on 22nd September 1979)
Kenneth Charles Wood D091288C	1st June 2026	Chief Petty Officer Weapons Electrical Artificer	We Remember Submariners & Friend of SM Museum	Not reported	SPARTAN, SPLENDID (1st Commission Crew) on 21st March 1981 & TURBULENT (1st Commission Crew) on 28th April 1986
Fergus Seymour Evans CO 03092Q	7th June 2026 aged 85	Commander (E) (MESM)	Colchester Branch Member No. 2901	1966 to 1990	ARTFUL (1966 to 1967), PORPOISE (1967 to 1970), COURAGEOUS (MEO 1972 to 1975), VULCAN (1976), DRAKE (1980) & MOD London (1989) Also served in BELFAST & ARK ROYAL
Trevor A Turton D136694Y	16th June 2026 aged 81	Leading Stores Accountant	Nottingham Branch Member No. 4566	1967 to 1971	WARSPITE (1968) & REVENGE (P) (1968 & 1st Commission Crew from 1969 to 1971)
Paul Trevor Meakin D050113D	June 2026 aged 83	Chief Ordnance Electrical Artificer & Commander WESM (RAN)	Australia Branch Member No. 3456	October 1966 to November 1972	DOLPHIN, WALRUS, REPULSE (S) (1967 & 1st Commission Crew on 28th September 1968 to 1971) ORION & OTAMA
Robin Courtney Whiteside OBE	22nd June 2026 aged 89	Commander	Friend of SM Museum	1956 to 1989	TOKEN (Sep 56-Dec 56), AMBUSH (Dec 58-Dec 59), TYNE (Spare Crew) (Oct 59-May 60), FINWHALE (Jun 60-Mar 63), ASTUTE (XO) (Apr 63-Sep 63), ARTEMIS (XO) Apr 64 Mar 65, HMS OTTER (XO)

					(Apr 65-Aug 66), TIPTOE (CO) (Jan 67-Aug 68), DREADNOUGHT (XO) (Jan 67-Dec 71), SM School (TXO) (Jan 72-Sep 73), NEPTUNE PCO Course (Oct 73-Dec 73), RENOWN(S) (CO) (Jan 74-Apr 74), CINCNVHOME (May 74-Jul 74), DNW Aug 74-Oct 74), DNE Foxhill (SM Desk Officer) (Nov 74 - Dec 76, FOSM (FTPO) (Jan 77-Nov 79), FOSM (SEDO) (Apr 85 - Aug 89)
Ian R Lund D114063P	22nd June 2026 aged 72	Leading Ordnance Electrical Mechanic	Norfolk Branch Member No. 6237	1973 to 1977	VALIANT (1974 to 1976)
Christopher John Andrew	22nd June 2026 aged 89	Chief Petty Officer 1 RCN	Submarines Association of Canada	From December 1969	OBERON (Part 3), OJIBWA, ONONDAGA & OKANAGAN
James G (Jim) Fisher P/M961697	23rd June 2026 aged 88	Radio Mechanician	Gosport Branch Member No. 2929	October 1970 to April 1978	PORPOISE & NARWHAL
Roy Lippett D081887B	23rd June 2026 aged 80	Leading Marine Engineering Mechanic	We Remember Submariners	1963 to 1973	RORQUAL (on recommissioning for 4th Commission at Rosyth in 1971)
Eifion (Taff) Thomas	1st July 2026 aged 73	Chief Petty Officer Marine Engineering Artificer (L)	We Remember Submariners	From 1973	VALIANT (1973 to 1979), DREADNOUGHT (1981 to 1982), SEALION (1983 to 1985), OTUS (1986 to 1988) & OCELOT (1989 to 1991) Also served in BULWARK as JOEM (1969 to 1971)
Martin (Walt) Disney D185166V	6 th July 2026 aged 62	Leading Marine Engineering Mechanic (L)	We Remember Submariners	December 1982 to November 2003	OTTER, SEALION, OPOSSUM, ORACLE, VANGUARD & VENGEANCE (1st Commission Crew) on 27th November 1999
NOTE Of the above names both Lt Cdr Warren Raynham (then serving as an Electrical Artificer) and Commander Whiteside were onboard HMS DREADNOUGHT for the North Pole trip from 20th February to 11th March 1971					



SM125

FROM HOLLAND 1 TO AGAMEMNON



125 YEARS OF
HM SUBMARINES