



# SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION BARROW-IN-FURNESS BRANCH NEWS LETTER



## THE APRIL WORD



The AGM is almost upon us and this could very well be my last Combined Chairman and Chaplain Ditt to the newsletter, thank the lord for that I hear some of you say. My three year elected period is drawing to a close and there is to be an election and this makes me very pleased. As many of you know it is my long held conviction, that the sustainability of any small democratic societies such as ours, are best served when positions of leadership/officers are selected through a healthy ballot, rather than the quiet apathy of hanging onto the incumbent without challenge. I will end there; else I will be accused of using this newsletter as an election hustings, but add that I am happy to serve one more term of office if the membership so wish. The hardest thing for me during my time as Chairman was attempting to put together a monthly article that was interesting and newsworthy for our monthly blurb. As words and ideas do not exactly fly from my keyboard; a great deal of time over the past three years has been spent in front of a blank PC screen. So at a rough estimate of an hour per article then a full week has been given over to newsletter literary pursuits. Most of my reflections for 2007 are now

part of the AGM Chairman's Report so I will not reinvent the wheel within this article. My dining room table is currently looking like a printing works cutting room where I am busily chopping up some of our old calendars to put out on our "for sale" goodies table at the SA National Conference this coming weekend.



If the launch of the Astute is anything to go by, when we last experimented the selling of old calendars as a book of submarine pictures, then there could be a few extra coppers for our coffers.

I must admit that I am very much looking forward to the SA activities for this coming weekend, its always good to meet up with old friends, and I hope a lot of our members will be able to attend the various functions, and help with the arrangements for touring of HMS Onyx.

Wearing my Chaplains hat I took it on myself to design an Easter Greeting Card that could be sent out as an attachment to an Email. We as a branch have discussed at previous committee meetings the feasibility of producing locally designed cards that can be used for both formal and informal occasions. Whilst this is the first stab at producing a card, it enabled the Committee to send out as part

of our 45th Anniversary Celebrations an Easter Greeting to all other Branches and also all of our Barrow Members on E-mail.

Regards Jonsey

## 2008 AGM



2008 Annual General Meeting on Tuesday  
1st April 1930 in the  
Royal British Legion,  
Holker Street – in the  
Concert Hall.

## Annual Conference Weekend (28th - 30th March)

For those members that attended the meet and greet in the Victoria park hotel on Friday night the beer flowed, the company was good, and the dits were spun. A good night.

I currently await further information on the rest of the weekends proceeding, hopefully to appear in the latter half of this edition. Else I am told you may find the Appropriate information in the news letter "In Depth"



## Social Secretary's

### 2008 Annual Report



Well shipmates its that time of year again to report on the social events of the last year and to let you know what you can expect socially in the coming year and it gives me the chance to thank all those that have supported the branch and helped during the social events.

#### A brief summary of social events in 2007:

The **annual dinner** dance took place on **14th April**. Our principle guest was our own Kenny Collins in recognition of his Chairmanship of the branch; again it was a very good night. My thanks to Billy Daniels and Brian Wadson of (Shindig) for providing excellent entertainment.

The **BBQ on July 7th** was a great night, with plenty of colourful shirts, lively entertainment and fine spread put on by Brigham and his team of helpers; I think the weather for once was fine, I can't remember any rain. Entertainment was provided by a good female vocalist called Leah Simone and a disco. It was a great night and I had a lot of positive feedback from those who attended, the only criticism was that the turn was a bit loud to start with, but she could belt out a mean tune. I had some good feedback from Derek Jacobs of the Manchester branch; their members that attended all had a good time, with Ex Coxswain Jim Axford taking the loudest shirt trophy back to Manchester. They have pledged to return next year and defend the title. There are a few people that I owe thanks to, Brigham and his team who put on a fine BBQ, and Lynne and Jon Rogers for selling the raffle tickets, Terry Spurling for being Rum Bosun, without their efforts there would be no dos. October saw the annual re union held in Coventry and some members attended the Trafalgar night dinner organised by the Sea cadets.

Our **Ladies night dinner** was held in **November** with guest speaker Cdr Mike Walliker and we hon-

oured Our web master Ian Hilbeck who was presented with some Crystal in appreciation of his services to the Web site. Midnight Express provided the entertainment.

The social scene for 2007 drew to a close with the annual Christmas bash on **December 8th at the Roose Conservative club**. Again the support I had was fantastic especially with the raffle and the unbelievable size of the buffet. Once again thank you all.

#### The Harbour

In between these events members have been on various visits to other branches and I have held three quiz nights here in the Harbour which have proved very popular. A few of us are looking forward to visiting Ray Bruchez in Crewe on April 12th for a get together with members from Morecambe and Manchester joining us, Shep Wooley will be entertaining us, no doubt there will be a full report after the event!!

#### 2008 Summary

2008 kicked off with a first footing visit to the Morecambe Bay branch on the 4th January

#### Branches 45th Anniversary

This year we are celebrating the branches 45th Anniversary with a celebration dinner to be held at the Lisdoonie Hotel with top entertainment and distinguished guests. There are still plenty of tickets left and your support for this commemorative event would be appreciated.

#### National draw July 5th

The National draw is being hosted by us this year and takes place on July 5th at the Vickerstown Institute and will be run alongside our annual BBQ, you really need to get your names down early for this one as there is going to be a lot of people attending from away, so don't be disappointed.

After these two events we are still holding our usual Ladies night dinner and Christmas Social, along with supporting the Sea Cadets at the Trafalgar night ball, in addition to this I will try to carry on with quiz nights and am

looking to organise a brewery run to Jennings Brewery at Cocker-mouth some time in the summer.

Finally I want to thank all members and friends of the branch who have supported the social functions over the past year. Your generosity in buying raffle tickets is astounding and goes a long way to keeping the cost down for the functions. I believe our main aim should be to get together as much as possible and socialise. If you would like to see any other events or functions please let me or the committee know and we will do our best to organise them for you, all I ask is your continued support and hope to see even more of you at the functions in the next year.

**Colin Hutchinson**  
**Social Secretary**

#### Innocence

Between the innocence of infancy and the recklessness of maturity comes the unique specimen of humanity known as the Submariner.

Submariners can be found in bars, in arguments, in bed, in debt and intoxicated. They like receiving mail, mid-monthly's, nude pin-ups, sympathy, complaining and beer.

A Submariners secret ambition is to change places with the Captain for just one trip, to own a brewery and to be loved by everyone in the world.

A Submariner is a Sir Galahad in a Japanese brothel, a psychoanalyst with Readers Digest on the table, Don Quixote with a discharge note, the saviour of mankind with his back teeth awash, Valentino with a fiver in his pocket and democracy personified in a Red Chinese prison cell.

A Submariner is a provider in war and a parasite in peace. No one is subject to so much abuse, wrongly accused, so often misunderstood by so many as a Submariner. He has the patience of Job, the honesty of a fool and the heaven sent ability to laugh at himself.

When he returns home from a long trip, no one else but a Submariner can create such an atmosphere of suspense and longing as he walks through the door with the magical words on his lips: "Have you got the wets in then ?"

**Roger Brailsford**



## Secretary's Dit



By now the first of our Special Events for the 45th Anniversary Year in the 'National Council Conference' Weekend should be over and done with and we should be looking forward to the next event the 45th Anniversary Dinner on Saturday 26th April. Planning for the Conference by John Houlding and his Sub Committee has been time consuming and, as I write this, we know of thirty five Branches sending Delegates and some also sending Observers with probably somewhere near one hundred visitors to Barrow for the Conference some staying all weekend and some just here for the day. There are still seven Branches which may or may not have attended the Conference but I am hopeful that we will have heard from all of them and that the numbers visiting will have increased.

I expect there will have been a number of late entries, a few hiccups and a few changes in the Delegates and Observers but I am sure our plans are flexible enough to cope!

At the moment many Branch Members and their wives have promised support for the events and I hope that more of you will turn out on the day(s)! I thank John and his team and all Branch Members (in advance) for helping us out.

Some of you may have found yourselves recorded for posterity at the Conference as the Team producing the DVD of the Submariners Association was completing their filming at the National Council Conference in the Town Hall and at some other occasions during the weekend. This was the last of the filming for the DVD then follows the editing!

As long as we all don't end up on the Cutting Room floor. Dave Barlow, myself, Ted Hogben and Colin Way from the National Committee will be having an input to the editing process guided, of

course, by our professional Film Team. Hopefully it (the DVD) will be available later in the year in time for the Reunion.

Next up as they say to Branch business the Branch AGM this year is on Tuesday 1st April in the Concert Room at the RBL in Holker Street. If you're reading this in a paper copy you've just picked up from Ted Budgen you got to the right place at the right time! If you're sat by yourself in the Harbour on Tuesday 1st April then you're in the wrong place! As I write this I had received no proposals for discussion and voting on at the AGM. In a way this is very disappointing as it indicates that no one has any suggestions for making the Branch run better or for new things for us to try in the way of Socials and entertainment.

Another way of looking at it is that you are all totally 100% satisfied with the way things are being run by us which I can't believe!

The Branch officer due for election/re-election this year is the Chairman and our National Delegate for the 2009 National Council Conference John Hart was of course our Delegate for 2008

There are two names in the Frame for Chairman Alan Jones (the incumbent) and Ron Hiseman my predecessor as Secretary! If you fancied yourself as the Chairman or Delegate you should have put your name forward as the AGM has come and gone you'll have to put up the same old faces for another year! Our four Committee Member posts are also due for re-election Alan West, Ted Budgen and Dave Jenkins are willing to stay on but we still need at least one more.

Planning is continuing for the 'National Draw' which we are hosting and combining with our Annual Barbeque on the 7th of July. This will be at our usual Venue at the Vickerstown Institute and is being arranged by Colin, Brigham and a small Sub Committee.

The Tickets for the Draw were distributed to the Branches at the National Council Conference. As far as our share of the Tickets for the draw is concerned (£1,610

worth for our 161 Members) I intend to follow the practice of the last few years in allocating £10.00 worth to each Member to sell and return the cash and the Stubs to the Committee. Don't forget that one third of the proceeds of the Branch Ticket sales comes back to the Branch Funds if we sell all of ours it means that funds can benefit by up to £536.00!

The Draw Ticket 'Stubs' from all the Branches will be returned to the Barrow Branch Committee to hold until the Draw takes place. Then we will have the 'not so small task' of folding all the Tickets some assistance might be needed here perhaps a few evenings over a few pints of beer might get the job done without too much pain!

The assistance of any Branch Member in giving us a hand will be welcomed just let any Member of the Committee if you can help out with.

Don't forget the St. George's Day Parade on Sunday 27th April usual routine meet up at the Harbour at lunchtime, nip down to the Town Hall Square with the marchers, the Standard Bearer and the Standard to start the Parade, march up to St. George's, Church Service and then back to the Engineers! All are welcome let's have a good turn out again! I will remind you all at the April Branch Meeting the AGM.

Shortly (on 10th May) we will be seeing the annual Keswick to Barrow Walk in aid of the various charities.

The K2B Committee will be looking for Stewards again so we will be looking for volunteers again!

June will see the Festival of the Sea again Terry Spurling will keep us in the picture so watch this space as they say! I hear that there will be some sort of a Walney Air Show again this year (in June?) no detail as yet but we'll let you know as soon as we hear anything but I expect they'll be after Stewards as well.

Also in June Blackpool and the 'National Veterans Week' Ceremonies for this year a whole host of events between 21st and

29th June for you to choose from. We wait to hear from the Blackpool SA to see what they are doing for it! More details to follow.

Back to Branch business again - as ever all new Members are very welcome is there anyone that you know who is entitled to join the SA but is not yet a Branch member? Remember that with 163 Members we have 163 recruiting sergeants! In our 45th Anniversary Year we should all be trying to increase Branch numbers so get out there spreading the word it all helps to boost the funds!!

That's all from me for now! Sorry it's another long dit this time but there is a lot of business to get through and, as you can see from the above there's a lot on this year! See you all at the 2008 Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 1st April at 1930 don't be late and this time at the Royal British Legion, Holker Street - in the Concert Hall!!



## DIESEL BOAT SUBMARINERS 1960 - 1997



### 18th Annual Reunion

We had another fantastic turn out last year, one of the best for a few years and I thought the atmosphere was the best ever. Quite a few attended for the first time so it was good to see so many enjoying the day and meeting up with old friends.

Thank you for all the positive feedback and kind comments; it looks like I'll have to carry on for a couple more years!

Last year 443 were notified, on the day 207 checked in, 26 informed me they would be attending but unfortunately couldn't make it, 9 of those paid for food and I received 84 apologies. That adds

up to an active database for 2008 of 317 quite an improvement on last year. I'm pleased to report 14 new members have been added, so thank you for all the networking many of you are doing. I do appreciate all the travelling you do to attend, especially the guys from overseas, Canada, Japan, Australia, Spain not forgetting Scotland and Ireland. It's a testament to the special bond diesel submariners have which makes the DTS so special.

I'm sorry to report that once again a large number of people (126) didn't bother to reply to my letter or email. They have now been deleted from the database. I can't be bothered if their not bothered. On a more positive note, we have over 300 active members which stand well for 2011 our 21st DTS.

Once again the girls on the reception did a great job but informed me that a few members unfortunately walked straight past them without registering their attendance. Why do they do it when last year it was free to get in! So please when entering the venue 'check in' then you can be sure you'll be kept on the database. Just to remind you, I won't accept any food order unless you have paid up front. I also noticed a few people taking food without paying for it! Do I need to say anything more?

Terry Humphreys did a fantastic job with the 'small change bucket', added with the money from tips over the bar we raised £919 for the staff. I hope you enjoyed the staff in the Cowboy and Indian outfits; next year I think it may be a Hawaiian theme. I'll look forward to that! It's great that the staff enjoy serving us as much as we enjoy being in the Club. They always give us such good service it's a pleasure to hold our reunion in such a great friendly establishment. The staff asked me to say a big 'thank you' for your tips, they were overwhelmed once again by your generosity. For all these reasons, the 18th Annual 'DTS' will once again be held at the W.M.O.V. Social Club, Ferndale Rd, Plymouth (Nr Camels Head Fire Station) on Saturday 2nd August, starting at 1115 to 2359.

My thanks go to the Canada boys led by Wynn Jones for presenting

a plaque to the Club. I have asked Tracey if she would agree to give us a wall just for submariners and hoof the skimmers to another position. She said she'll look into it for us.

After a two year period of free entrance the fund is drying up a bit so it'll be necessary to recommence with the £1 levy to cover costs (see financial statement). A buffet lunch will be available on request at a cost of £4 per head, booked and paid for in advance. For those who require food + levy, please forward a cheque for the sum of £5.00 made payable to K. J. Woods.

Please continue to contact me if you know of any ex-Diesel Boat Submariners who are unaware of our reunion but would like to attend, contact me with his name and address and I will ensure he receives a letter. Finally I look forward to hearing from you all again. If this is the first time you have received a newsletter, "WELCOME" to our Reunion.

This is one for the Submarine Association but I don't mind doing a bit of advertising for one of our own Jan Trenoweth.

"Are there any ex or serving submariners who would be interested in meeting once a month for a chat and a drink in mid-Cornwall? It will be a chance to keep in touch and have a laugh with others who have served in and are proud to be submariners". The idea is to re-establish a Cornish branch of the SA. I already know of a few who are interested but the more the merrier!

! You're welcome to contact me by:-  
email:  
des.trenoweth@tiscali.co.uk or by  
phone 01209 219314

Programme  
Please do not arrive before 1115

<b>1115</b>	<b>Start CHECK IN</b>
<b>1130</b>	<b>Bar Open</b>
<b>1400</b>	<b>Welcome Speech.</b>
<b>1415</b>	<b>Buffet available.</b>
<b>1900</b>	<b>Lounge Bar</b>
<b>closed.</b>	
<b>1900 - 2359</b>	<b>Main Bar and</b>
	<b>Entertainment Lounge.</b>

Yours aye  
**Ken 'slinger' Woods**



## PRE-WWI Submariners



By Barrie Downer

The following biography was compiled after some information and copies of letters and a diary were sent to me by John Howe a colleague in New Zealand. Some documents about Robert 'Bob' Lockyer had been sent to him by a relative of Robert now living in New Zealand. Robert joined Submarines in early 1914 served on Submarines D4, D3 and E17 before being interned in Holland after E17 was lost after running aground off the Dutch Coast.

The letter, written by him to a friend in Submarine E24, is quite poignant as E24 was lost before the letter could be delivered and the letter was returned to him.

The content of the letter describes life in an Internment Camp but also shows the kindness and concern shown by the Submariners of E24 to their friends in E17.

A great uncle of mine, Leading Seaman Arthur Edmund Ricketts, was a member of Hawke Division of the Royal Naval Division and was also interned in the Internment Camp at Groningen he might even have known Robert Lockyer!

### Robert John Lockyer O/N K4117 (Ch)

Stoker 1st Class Robert Lockyer was born in Hackney in London on 25th Feb 1891 and he was the son of Mr & Mrs Lockyer of 25, Homerton Terrace, Hackney, London.

After leaving School he trained as a Blacksmiths Apprentice. He joined the Royal Navy as a Stoker 2nd Class on 31st Aug 1909 signing on for a twelve year engagement and he was drafted to the Torpedo Boat Destroyer HMS ACHERON on that date. He was drafted to HMS PEMBROKE II on 3rd Mar 1910 and, later to the 13,550 ton Cruiser HMS NATAL (2nd Division, Home Fleet) on 'Commissioning' at Chatham on 10th May 1910. He was advanced to Stoker 1st Class on 31st Aug 1910 and continued to serve in HMS NATAL until 16th Sep 1912 when the Ship 'de-commissioned' at Chatham and he returned to HMS PEMBROKE II. He was

then drafted to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS BONAVENTURE when the Ship 're-commissioned' at Portsmouth on 12th Oct 1912. Robert Lockyer 'volunteered for Service in Submarines' in November 1913 and was drafted to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS MAIDSTONE (8th Submarine Flotilla) at Portsmouth on 24th Apr 1914. He was then drafted to HMS MAIDSTONE 'for Submarine D4' (Lieutenant Commander Kenneth M Bruce, Royal Navy) on 10th Jun 1914. In September 1914 a new Commanding Officer was appointed Lieutenant Commander John R G Moncreiffe, Royal Navy. On 21st Nov 1914 Submarine D4 was transferred to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS ADAMANT. Submarine D4 was transferred back to HMS MAIDSTONE (8th Submarine Flotilla) on 1st Apr 1915 (as HMS ADAMANT had been sent to the Mediterranean to support Submarines at the Dardanelles. Robert Lockyer was 'Pierhead Jumped to Submarine D3 for a six day patrol at the end of April 1915 returning to Harwich on 4th May 1915 but then returned to Submarine D4. Robert Lockyer probably joined Submarine E17 (Lieutenant Commander John R G Moncreiffe, Royal Navy) on 'Commissioning' on 27th Aug 1915. In the morning of Thursday 6th Jan 1916 Submarine E17 was on patrol north of the island of Texel.

The Submarine struck an uncharted bank and was badly damaged. The Dutch Cruiser NOORD BRABANT closed to investigate the problem but Lieutenant Commander Moncreiffe dived the Submarine to escape believing that the cruiser was hostile however the damage forced Moncreiffe to surface.

The crew of E17 was taken off and interned in Holland for the duration of the War. His parents were informed that he was interned in Holland in a letter from the Admiralty dated 23rd Jan 1916. Initially Robert Lockyer was interned at Den Helder but was later moved to the 'Interneeringe' Depot at Groningen.

Whilst interned in Holland Robert Lockyer's administration was carried out by HMS DOLPHIN the Submarine Depot at Gosport. He was released from internment on 14th Nov 1918 and was drafted

to HMS PRESIDENT V where he was advanced to Acting Leading Stoker – back dated to 15th Feb 1916.

After a month he returned to Submarines when he was drafted back to HMS DOLPHIN on 19th Jan 1919 and was further drafted to the Submarine Flotilla Leader HMS ROYAL ARTHUR 'for Submarine K15' on 4th Feb 1919. Whilst serving in Submarine K15 he was confirmed in the rate of Leading Stoker on 15th Aug 1919 and he was then drafted to the Submarine Flotilla Leader HMS CRESCENT at Rosyth on 6th Jan 1920.

A brief return to HMS DOLPHIN between 20th Jan and 14th Feb 1920 was followed by a draft to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS MAIDSTONE 'for Submarine H48' on 15th Feb 1920. Submarine H48 was transferred to HMS DOLPHIN (5th Submarine Flotilla) on 21st Aug 1921 and he continued to serve in that Submarine until 27th Sep 1923 being transferred to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS VULCAN 'for Submarine L17' on 28th Sep 1923. This was only a brief draft as he was further drafted to HMS PEMBROKE II on 17th Nov 1923 probably for 'embarkation leave' and 'passage'. Robert Lockyer joined the Submarine Depot Ship HMS TITANIA (4th Submarine Flotilla, China Fleet) at Hong Kong 'for Submarines' on 1st Jan 1924.

Whilst serving in HMS TITANIA he was advanced to Acting Stoker Petty Officer on 30th Mar 1925 and confirmed as Stoker Petty Officer on 30th Mar 1926. He left Submarines and returned to General Service and also returned home on 6th Nov 1926 when he was drafted to the 3,750 ton Light Cruiser HMS CASTOR in the Reserve Fleet at the Nore. This was followed by a return to HMS PEMBROKE II on 23rd Dec 1926.

A move to Scotland followed on 22nd Feb 1927 when he was drafted to HMS COLUMBINE (the Depot Ship at Port Edgar) 'for HMS VANITY a 1,300 ton 'V' Class Destroyer of the 7th Destroyer Flotilla, Atlantic Fleet). He was further drafted to

HMS COLUMBINE 'for HMS VECTIS' of the same Flotilla on 22nd Jun 1927 and 'for HMS TORMENTOR' on 11th Nov 1927. After a return to HMS PEMBROKE II at Chatham on 24th Feb 1928 Robert Lockyer returned to the Far East with a draft to HMS TAMAR II (the Destroyer Base) at Hong Kong 'for HMS SEYPOY' to date 31st May 1928. No further information is currently available but his 'twenty two year pensionable engagement' was due to complete on 25th Feb 1931.

The following letter was sent in April 1916 to Stoker 1st Class Ernest Willcox (care of HMS MAIDSTONE c/o GPO London) who was serving in Submarine E24 by Robert Lockyer (ex Submarine E17) who was interned in Groningen in Holland after the Submarine had run aground on the Dutch Coast on Thursday 6th Jan 1916. Ernest Willcox and Robert Lockyer had previously served together in Submarine D4.

The envelope was annotated 'Returned from SNO for return' and Bob Lockyer had written on the letter 'This letter was returned to me. E24 got sunk and all hands were drowned 28-3-16'.

C Comp Benbow Hut 1547  
Interneerings Depot  
Groningen  
Holland  
British Prisoner of War

My Dear Friends

Again I take much pleasure in writing you a few more lines and also to thank you from all of the Late E17 Crew for the great kindest (sic) you have done us in sending the very useful parcels which I have received at different dates. When I got the first lot we thought it was very good of you but when the other parcels come there was enough for the lot of us and it was shared out as equal as possible. You must have collected a large amount and I only hope I shall be able to do something in return. I don't think I have got a great deal to say this time on account of the routine being the same old thing every day. For the last three or four days there has been plenty of excitement owing to a notice saying that in the interests of the camp everybody

should be vaccinated. Don't matter what one talks about its nothing but vaccination and today the first battalion were done (the Benbow's\*). I expect there will be great sport in a few days time with the bad arms and the excuse will be "I can't do that Chief my arm is bad".

Yes a little excuse here does the trick for whatever you want to do or what one don't want to do. Generally a crowd of chaps don't want to go route marching especially if they have been ashore over night and then up comes Chiefie - Hallo what's up with you? "My legs are stiff" "Having my boots mended" "Got the diarrhoea" and some more little things. I rather like these marches myself as we always get one of the bands with us and it also keeps me fit. Every morning I get up at about seven thirty and have a run around the camp. It is rather a crime to get up at that time but another thing is that I am right on top line for breakfast.

Yes I got this letter four days before any parcels came and bet your life I kept my eye on the list as there is another chap has my name and I watch him very closely.

When the parcels did come it caused great excitement; everybody coming to me saying 'there are a lot of parcels for you' and 'You don't get none' and 'What about asking us out to supper', just the same as when old Sandy Adams(?) when he got no letters. By the way what boat has he got? So Joe Doble\*\* has got his hook - well I hope he will be kind to his men. My chief ambition is to roll on my twelve but its rather a long way off yet. I've been talking to some of the lads in the other battalions and they are wanting to get back but the fellows in Benbow are all quite satisfied. I think it's the best one and are nearly all volunteers. Every time leave is given there is great sport as there are about thirty men from Kitcheners Army and they all come from Yorkshire and at the top of their voices they argue until twelve o'clock you can bet they get tons of applause such as "Put a boot in it" etc.

They are dressed in sailors uniform and although they have had it for eighteen months they still look like a new recruit you

know a proper (\*\*fful House). Tonight I am patrol but its different altogether to what it is in any naval port in England. I shall fall in about eight o'clock and then we are marched to the nearest (\*\*\*\*) and stop there until ten or if anybody has any more money shall stop until half past. If anybody gets out of control the patrol have to come out of that place and tell the fellows to go away and then we adjourn to somewhere else. You haven't seen me in a Khaki Coat have you a proper soldier will send you on a photo when I get one.

What kind of a boat have you got is she as good as the Old Bus, tell George Oakley\*\*\*I would like to take his tot the rum here is just like having a halfpenny hot(?) drink.

Well old chum I think this (is?) all in fact I don't know what to write about as one day is just the same as others. I expect that is why the lads get fed up. Trusting you and all the lads are in the best of Health and Luck.

Thanking everybody for sending us such nice and valuable gear. I am yours Very Sincerely and Gratefully,

**Bob Lockyer**

We have been told that we are here for good now as before Montie\*\*\*\* said we still had a very small chance of getting back.

Give my Best Respects and Wishes to all the Lads.

Comments:

\* Benbows members of the BENBOW Battalion of the Royal Naval Division interned in Holland after crossing the border as they escaped capture by the German Army following the defence of Antwerp.

\*\* Probably Leading Stoker Sidney Doble, DSM, MiD O/N K3948 born in Yarcombe in Devon on 19th May 1894.

\*\*\* Stoker Petty Officer George Oakley - lost on E24

\*\*\*\* Probably Lt Commander Moncrieffe Commanding Officer of Submarine E17. The 'Sandy' Adams mentioned in the letter has not yet been identified.

It is hoped to include information from Robert Lockyer's diary of his time in HMS NATAL and in Submarines D4 and D3 in a future edition of the News Letter.





## 2008 SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE

Well, that's it all done the Conference Weekend seems to have gone down very well thanks to a lot of work by the Committee, Branch Members, ASTUTE Ships Company, the Shipyard Staff, the Town Hall Staff and various hotels in and around Barrow.

In all we had delegates from 33 of the Branches at the Conference we had hoped for thirty five but two had to call off at very short notice.

There were, of course many Observers from the Branches including our own and many Delegates and Observers brought wives, partners and girlfriends not all three at the same time I hasten to add!

The National Committee were out in force of course but, unfortunately none of the SA Vice Presidents were able to attend.

I won't bore everyone with the detail of the Conference itself those details will be in John Harts 'Delegates Report to the Annual General Meeting' and will also be issued with the AGM Minutes.

The 'Meet and Greet' at the Victoria Park Hotel on Friday evening was very well attended by Branch Members, wives, Delegates, Observers and members of the National Committee and, from what I saw the evening went down very well the Bar must have taken a few bob as they say and I hear that some of our Members didn't get home until the very small hours no names no pack drill!

The visits into the ship yard on Saturday Morning went off very well.

Thanks to a strong team of Branch Members acting as Tour Guides in the DDH and for HMS ONYX, the BAE Security staff and the Ships Company of HMS ASTUTE who provided the minibus and driver and Tour Guides for the DDH as well.

Saturday afternoon saw the Conference proper and, for those not attending, a 'dinner time session in the Harbour Hotel' starting at 1200. I went down after the Conference completed and it was still going strong!

The Social Evening in the Victoria Park Hotel on Saturday evening was one of the highlights of the whole weekend. the place was packed with the National Committee, Delegates, Observers, Branch Members, wives, girlfriends and partners and I must thank all Members of the Branch who made the effort to attend a very good evening. Colin managed to find a very good Duo for the entertainment and they were worth every penny.

The raffle was very well supported and, all in all we seem to have more than broken even for the weekend overall. I don't now what time things packed up – I left at midnight and it was still going strong!

My personal thanks go to all those who have put themselves out over a very busy few weeks to make the whole Conference Weekend a resounding success. It has raised the profile of the Barrow Branch in the Association as a whole and should go a long way to ensuring that we get a lot more visitors in July for the Annual Draw in the Vickerstown Institute

Thank you one and all.

Barrie Downer

## Letters

On behalf of our Chairman and myself I would like to pass on our appreciation for the obvious effort that went into the organisation of the Annual Conference and a special mention to John Holding and his team for arranging the accomodation, visits and entertainment. Very well done an excellent weekend.

Dave Palmer. secretary Sussex Branch

Dave Palmer (Sussex)  
sub.crest@tiscali.co.uk



**A summary by Admiral Sir Max Horton summarising his ruthless insistence on high standards to his Officers and men in harbour at Malta Sep 1941.**

'... It is not a kindness to overlook slackness or mistakes. It is really great cruelty to do so cruelty to wives and relatives of the man you let off and his shipmates and to yourself.

There is no margin for mistakes in submarines: you are either alive or dead'

## SUBMARINE CONFERENCE AT TOWN HALL



Group president Admiral Sir James Perowne, chairman Dave Barlow from the Submariners Association, Cdr Mike Walliker from the Astute, mayor Ken and mayoress Pat Williams during a conference at the Town Hall. Saturday 29th March 2008



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& Hon. Chaplain

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### DISCLAIMER

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### News Letter

#### Contact Information

Do you have a story to tell or have information you feel should appear in the news letter then ring Ben Britten on 01229 820265 (evenings) or if you wish to send me an article please ring for postal address. or send your contribution by e-mail to:

**Rwbritten1@msn.com**

Constructive suggestions about the news letter are very welcome. The news letter will be published in the last week of each month IE last week of April for the May 2008 issue please try and have any information with me by the **15th of each month.** Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition.



[www.rnsubmus.co.uk](http://www.rnsubmus.co.uk)



### Members Birthdays April 2008

Dalton	J	01/04
Lorking	P	03/04
Breeze	C	04/04
Taylor	S	08/04
Lowe	D	09/04
Anderson	E	10/04
Stevens	G	10/04
Hiseman	R	12/04
Nimmo	T	14/04
Pitts	A	15/04
May	S	18/04
Hart	J	18/04
James	M	18/04
Dunford	D	19/04
Buxton	V	24/04
Houlding	J	29/04



### The Editor

As the new Editor at the Evening Mail get familiar with his new position I can confirm that the arrangement as with previous editors continues in that the Branch can continue to use submarine related picture and stories produced by the mail in the Branch newsletter and as required by arrangement.

Thanks to all those that contibuted to this edition. Please accept my apologies for the slight delay in publishing.  
Ed

