



**BARROW SA
BRANCH
OFFICIALS**

May 2011

Issue 131

Submariners Association

newsletter

Barrow-in-Furness Branch

Twinned with SAOC (East)



HMS Churchill

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CHAIRMAN'S May Word

Fellow Submariners

Let me start off by saying what an honour and a privilege it is to become the Barrow Branch Chairman. I just hope that I can do the job justice and be as good as those who have gone before me with such distinction.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Alan Jones for all the hard work he put in during the past six years. He has been and still is a great ambassador for the Association in general and this branch in particular. He is not disappearing into the distance as he will still be our chaplain and will be involved in the welfare of our members. Not too well himself at the moment so get well soon Jonesy.

I attended my first committee meeting last night and whilst it was not that well attended I got a good insight in to how the Branch works and overall I am happy with what I saw. Some tweaks here and there maybe but nothing major. Barrie and Mike certainly have their fingers on the pulse as secretary and treasurer respectively so we certainly have nothing to worry about in those departments anyway.

We had a good discussion about what we should be doing to celebrate fifty years since the branch was founded which is just two years away in May 2013. Jan Mead has taken on the task of looking at assessing ideas, their viability, and then costing those activities that we should engage in during that year. Geoff Thomas has promised his help too which is also good news. We are looking at not just one function but a series of celebratory events through out the year.

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We have got some ideas which we will assess and then report back but if any of you out there have any ideas then let Jan, Geoff or myself know or indeed any of the committee. If you want to join that committee then you will be made most welcome. All this of course will come at a price and so that there is not too much of a burden on individual branch members we need to start some serious fund raising. Mick tells me that £1000 has already been put aside but we will need more.

We don't just want ideas but someone to help carry them through so if you like a challenge then come and join in. We want this to be high profile so that we can maybe attract even more members who live in our neck of the woods but who have so far elected not to join us. The Report from the National council Conference has been sent out with the minutes of the Branch Annual General Meeting. How do the decisions taken at that conference affect us as a branch?

Well, the main thing is that the National Funds have been slowly depleting over the years mainly due to inflation and the time has come when the Branch delegates agreed that a rise was necessary and they proposed and then voted on a £5 increase making the national portion of your subscription £10. That added to the branch subscription of £5 makes it £15 in all.

This doesn't come into effect until 2012 of course. Now many of you pay by Standing Order and the onus is on you to amend that order to reflect the increase. Please don't wait until next January to do that but do it now. I have and honestly it didn't hurt. It doesn't leave my account until the date I specified in December in my case anyway so there is nothing to lose by doing it now. Rather than have grumpy old Mick on your back in the New Year. Go on, deep down you know it makes sense.

Admiral Lord Boyce (Our Association Patron) has just

advised me that he has been appointed a Knight of the Garter (KG) and thus his full title now becomes Admiral the Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL.

I can't finish but by making reference to the tragic events that occurred on HMS Astute last month.

As I write this it is the eve of Lt Cdr Iain Molyneux's funeral and I know that I will be amongst possibly two or three hundred or even more attending the funeral to bid our farewells. I suspect it will be a very emotional time not just for the family who obviously have the greatest grief to bear but on all the submarine community both serving and those who have built the submarine.

We all share in the loss of one who was a very popular officer and he will be sadly missed.

That's all for now. See you all on the 13th May at the Lisdoonie for the Branch Dinner and Dance.

Dave Barlow
Branch Chairman

**Social Secretary
May 2011**



As I write this it looks like the beginnings of Summer are on the way (dare I speak too soon), the Annual Dinner Dance is a couple of weeks away and takes place on Friday 13th May 19:00 for 19:30, dress is Blazers or Lounge suits, and the price includes a 3 course meal, 1/2 bottle of wine and entertainment will be provided by Shindig. Cost will be £ 28 per head.

The list has been circulated at the last couple of meetings and to date we have approximately 50 coming, so please contact me ASAP if you would like tickets and why not bring your friends too. In order to get the meal

orders in on time the cut off date will be the May branch meeting on the 3rd May.

Our monthly meeting in June has been designated a Ladies Invite so we will be doing a Quiz or something for that meeting.

The list for the proposed Magennis Dinner to be held by the Northern Irish Branch in May has gone back to Barrie and those who are going should be pretty well organized by now. There are still Lists open for the Faslane visit in July and the Beds & Herts Branch 'Turkey and Tinsel' trip to Bournemouth in November.

These will be in circulation again during the May Branch meeting.

As I stated at the AGM I will be stepping down as Social Secretary at the end of this year as I feel it needs someone else to provide a different direction and fresh ideas into our social events, so if you think you are that person please contact the committee.

Well that's all for this month, I hope to see some more names down for the Dinner Dance and will see you at the Lisdoonie on 13th May.

Colin Hutchinson
Social Secretary



Barrow Submarine Series: issue number 30

HMS CHURCHILL



BARROW PRODUCT: HMS Churchill at Barrow in 1968

HM*S Churchill* was the first of three Churchill-class nuclear fleet submarines which served with the Royal Navy.

The others were *Conqueror* and *Courageous*.

Churchill was chosen to trial the first full-size submarine pump jet propulsion system.

Trials of a high-speed unit were followed by further trials with a low-speed unit, and these were successful enough for the same propulsion to be fitted in the rest of the class.

The boat was named after the former Prime Minister and First Lord of the Admiralty Sir Winston Churchill.

Churchill is one of the few warships to have been named during the lifetime of her namesake.

As First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill had insisted that submarines be named rather than numbered, as a mark of respect to those who lost their lives in the silent service.

HMS Churchill had the distinction of being the last nuclear submarine to be refitted at Chatham Dockyard.

The boat was launched at Barrow by Lady Mary Soames on December 20 in 1968 and the estimated building cost was £24,780,000.

HMS Churchill was based on the older Valiant-class but featured many internal improvements.

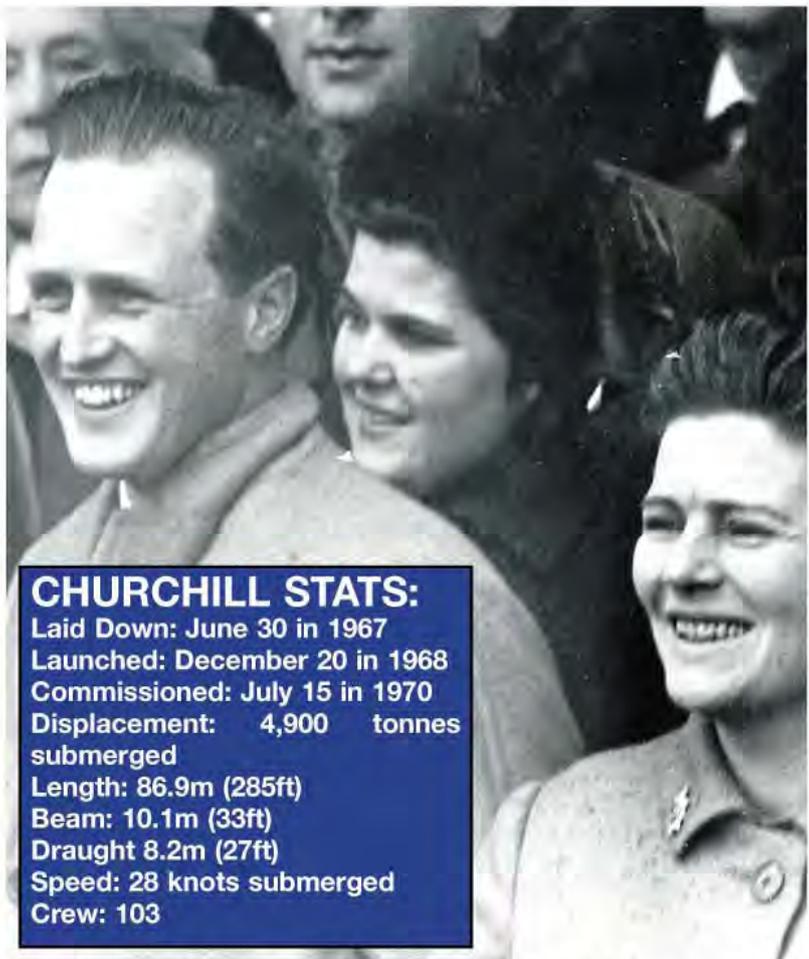
The main sonar array was Type 2001 which was supplemented by a 2007 flank array and a non-retractable towed array.

Two periscopes were fitted, a binocular search periscope and a monocular attack periscope with a built-in sextant.

Like all nuclear-powered submarines *Churchill* could remain submerged almost indefinitely, with supplies of food being the only limiting factor.

HMS Churchill evaluated both the American Mark 48 torpedo and the UGM-84 Harpoon missile, though only the latter was adopted by the Royal Navy.

She was decommissioned in 1991 and is laid up at Rosyth awaiting disposal.



CHURCHILL STATS:

Laid Down: June 30 in 1967
 Launched: December 20 in 1968
 Commissioned: July 15 in 1970
 Displacement: 4,900 tonnes
 submerged
 Length: 86.9m (285ft)
 Beam: 10.1m (33ft)
 Draught 8.2m (27ft)
 Speed: 28 knots submerged
 Crew: 103

BIG DAY: Former Prime Minister's son Winston Churchill on the Barrow shipyard platform for *HMS Churchill* in December 1968. Beside him is his sister Lady Mary Soames who launched the submarine



Barrie Downer Secretary

First I must start this Dit by mentioning the very sad and unwelcome news of the death of Lieutenant Commander Ian Molyneux of HMS ASTUTE and the serious injury to Lieutenant Commander Chris Hodge. Although neither of them were Members of our Branch they are both Submariners and very well known to many of us in Barrow and in the Ship Yard and very good friends of our serving Members. Ian Molyneux in particular was well known from his time in both HMS AMBUSH and ASTUTE whilst in Barrow and he was part of the successful Field Gun Team which gave its public display in the Town Hall Square not so long ago. Ian was a gentleman and will be sadly missed by many. I understand that Chris Hodge is now off the critical list but it is not known yet how long it will be before he can resume a normal life. On behalf of the Branch I wrote a message in a Book of Condolence which was circulated around HMS AMBUSH, the MoD Team at Barrow and at Abbey Wood before being presented to Ian Molyneux' family

The Branch was also well represented at the funeral of Ian Molyneux in the Sacred Heart Church in Wigan on 28th April. Ginge Cundall paraded the Branch Standard and other attendees were myself, Dave Barlow, Ken and Lilian Collins,, Andy Anderson and Dave Duncombe and Serving members Bruce Russell, Ian-Wylie, Steve Doughty, Kevin Mullen, Mark Butchart, Paul Douglas, Tim Fry, Hank Hancox and Rocky McGovern. Following the sad events on ASTUTE two other Officers from Barrow Lieutenant Commanders Ian Macintyre and 'Shades' Freeman had 'pierhead jumps' from AMBUSH to ASTUTE to take over in difficult circumstances and get the Submarine back to sea.

Now back to Branch business!
Welcome to the start of the 48th

Year of the Barrow Branch. The Branch AGM went quite well I thought! Alan Jones stepped down as Branch Chairman after two consecutive three year terms and he has been superseded by Dave Barlow. Dave was elected unanimously on a show of hands and chaired the second half of the meeting. However there were no volunteers for the Vice Chairman's post John Houlding stood down as, this year, he has significant other Commitments to meet. As it stands the Vice Chairman's Post is now vacant unless anyone wishes to put his name forward! Your Committee Members for this year are as previously with the addition of Mick Dack who has 'stepped up to the plate' as they say.

The Branch Officers Reports on how they see the past year has gone were read out and are attached to the Minutes of the AGM which you will all receive either by E Mail or by Snail Mail.

The Treasurer's Books were audited by John Hart and Ginge Cundall and they found everything in order. John Hart stood in for Paddy McCormick who had volunteered to be an Auditor but had to pull out at short notice as he was required in Faslane by BAE. I read out my Delegate's Report from the National Council Conference held this year in Blackpool. This year for the first time we had a 'Stag' Members Only Reunion combined with the National Council Conference. For those who haven't heard the October Reunion has now been replaced by a Families Weekend combined with the Annual Draw.

This year it will be held in the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool on Weekend 16th to 18th September. The Adelphi has been completely revamped since the Association's last visit for an Annual Reunion which by my rough calculations was probably in 2005! Details of the Reunion Booking have been sent out to all on E Mail by the National Secretary and will be attached to the AGM Minutes which you will all receive. Get your

bookings in early to avoid disappointment! So what else did we do in April apart from the AGM? Well not a lot really the Committee Meeting was deferred to Tuesday 26th April and, of course, the St George's Day Parade on 25th April which we supported and ended up with a 'do' afterwards at the Engineers and then the Steelworks as usual! It was a bit of a surprise this year to find the Parade taking place on a Monday as we have always had it before on the Sunday closest to 23rd April.

Three new members have joined the Branch in April two serving Members from HMS AMBUSH Mark Butchart and David Morgan and a long distance Member from Merseyside Eric Hamer. Welcome all and we hope to see you at Branch Meetings and other Social Events.

Well I think that's about enough from me for the May News Letter! Don't forget the next Branch Meeting at the RBL on Tuesday 3rd May usual time this time 2000. Mick Mailey should have the Annual Draw tickets available for sale so bring your cash along and buy your tickets and hope to win the Big Prize at Liverpool! Also bring along your cash to pay for your Annual Dinner Dance Tickets which Colin will be only too pleased to take off you!

If you are unable to attend a Branch Meeting(s) remember to send us your apologies. If you are not keeping too well let us know and we will see if there is anything the Welfare team can help with. Remember to let us know if there are any Branch Members or former Members that you know (or their wives, girlfriends or partners) who are not too well sometimes they may be too busy or pre-occupied with events to let us know themselves. If we don't know we can't help!

Hopefully I haven't missed out any events or anybody's names I think all the dates are right as well!
Regards
Barrie

Men Who Walk Apart

Taken from the Submarine Veterans of WW II "Blow & Vent" Newsletter by Bob Dixon

In the days when, with other war correspondents, I loitered about Honolulu, waiting with polite skepticism for the Pacific Fleet to work its miracle, submarines held interest only as mysterious gadgets that had no real part in the war we lived with. We would see them slide into harbor occasionally, salt-caked, battered and ugly looking long black sewer pipes covered with patches of white. We were struck by the pomp and circumstance of their arrival with a busy looking four-piper ahead and sometimes another behind them. We had heard the legend of how one of them had to work for two days to get the channel patrol to quit dropping depth charges on it, so we weren't surprised at the escort.

For a long time submarine men were as rare in our jittery little community as visitors from Mars. After a while, we came to see more of them and marked them instantly as creatures apart. They were for the most part pale and nearly always thin young men who walked quietly aloof with others of their kind. High-hat, some of the gobs from the surface ships called them, but they said it without resentment or unkindness. If these lads considered themselves a special breed of Navy men, well so did everybody else. The boot looked at them with obvious awe, the older men with grave respect. For whatever the current status of the submarines as warships, nothing had lessened their hold on the imagination of men in the less secret services. It was tradition in the Navy that only the most intelligent applicants were ever selected for the submarines, that only the men without fear volunteered for the duty and only the strong survived.

For my part, I was struck with the extreme youth of submariners. The skippers were all lieutenant commanders, few

of whom seemed to be more than thirty years old. The crewmen, you felt, might average nineteen or twenty. The CPO's of the service, the graybeards and high priests of this highly exclusive sect, were usually twenty-five or twenty-six.

One thing about them, strikingly obvious to those who lived next door to them in close confines of wartime Honolulu was their resilience. Uniformly when they came off patrol they were pallid strained-looking and tired. All of them were thin, some positively emaciated, as you might expect in men who had just passed a couple of months locked away from sunlight inside an iron barrel. They were alert and pleasant and interested in their surroundings, but so far as my own observations went, few of them in their first two or three days ashore ever laughed out loud. If any of them went out and got drunk, which certainly seemed a good and excusable idea, they did it like every thing else they did, in their own way and at their own convenience.

Even after the provost's anti-liquor order had been repealed, you never saw one of them in any of the local dives. I, for one, was too old a hand to figure that this indicated they had been recruited in Sunday Schools of the stricter order, but it seem to hint at least they were fastidious.

They would come ashore and for two or three days disappear from sight, which I suppose was not remarkable in-as-much as in those days they quartered on the base. But in a matter of some seventy-two hours, they'd be in circulation again and we'd stand and look at them as they passed wondering at their metamorphosis. By some miracle of the Hawaiian sun, or more likely of their tough youthfulness, they would have lost their corpse like whiteness and with it their grave reserve. You knew, while doubting the evidence of your own eyes, that they were ready for sea duty and in another day or two they'd be gone again once more on their way to Japan or the mid-Pacific Islands or the

chilly deadliness of the Aleutians.

None of them talked to us, and since we shared some of the fleet's awe of them, we made no effort to break down their reserve. They were kids, of course, like the average run of American kids, and there was no shyness about them. But they weren't supposed to talk about themselves or their work and they didn't. Whether or not we felt that they might have anything important to say if they had chosen to talk, we somehow respected the delicacy of their position chiefly, because we instinctively respected the men themselves.

One surprising thing about them and even now after I have lived with them and eaten in their messes and shared to some small extent their lives aboard the submarines, I still wonder at it was their mutual tolerance. It had long been my conviction that two of the best friends on earth weather-bound in a lonely cabin, or marooned on a sand bar somewhere, would most likely be at each other's throats in a week. Yet, here were men who lived virtually in each other's laps for months on end saecula saeculorum, and ashore where they had every opportunity to separate and enjoy a few hours of privacy, were seldom out of one another's company. When you saw one of them you seldom saw less than half a dozen. And while they would fight willingly individually or collectively with members of the lesser service, they seldom so much as raised their voices to any of their own kind.

I heard a correspondent mention to a submarine skipper one time that they were more like a family than a ship's crew and the captain snorted, "A family" he said. "Listen, we couldn't live in one of these pipes if we acted like a family. Brother we're all in here together and we have to get along!" We didn't know much about the submarines in those days but we were certainly learning something about the men who sailed in them and we



were beginning, in a vague way, to understand why they thought themselves different. The main reason seemed to be they were different.

GOLF

The Annual Royal Navy Submarine Command Open Golf Championship 2011 will be held on Thursday 28 Jul 11 at The St Pierre Golf Club, Marriott Hotel, Chepstow, Wales, NP16 6YA.

The event is open to all serving / ex-serving members of the Submarine Service.

Format of the day 36 holes Medal / Stableford (Full Handicap); Maximum handicap for the competition is 24 although players with a higher handicap can enter but must play off a maximum of 24. With plenty to play for, all results will be subject to the scrutiny of the Tournament Director.

The St Pierre is a 4-star golf and country club with exceptional facilities, approx 25 miles from Bristol airport. Accommodation prices and application form available from Ron Hiseman E-mail ronhiseman@tiscali.co.uk

The Funeral of Lieutenant Commander Ian Molyneux



The funeral of Lieutenant Commander Ian Molyneux late of HMS ASTUTE and HMS AMBUSH took place on Thursday 28th April 2011 at the Sacred Heart Church in Wigan. The Church was packed to the doors with (by several estimates) up to 650 family, friends and BAE, MoD and Royal Navy personnel.

The Senior Naval representatives included Rear Admiral Ian Corder (Rear Admiral Submarines), Commodore J K Moores (Commodore, Faslane Flotilla) and Commodore S R Baum (Naval Regional Officer, Northern England). Over one hundred more mourners were outside the Church who listened to the Service via loudspeakers) including a large contingent of the Submariners Association providing a Guard of Honour with the addition of a small contingent of Royal Marine Association Members and fifteen Submariners Association Standards on Parade. There was also a small contingent of the Riders Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Altogether there were fifteen Members of the Barrow Branch, Submariners Association in attendance including nine serving Members from ASTUTE, AMBUSH and TALENT. 'Ginge' Cundell paraded the Barrow Branch Standard and Branch 'Serving Member' Kevin Mullen was one of the Pall Bearers.

The very moving Funeral Service and Requiem Mass was led by the Reverend Father Andrew McFadden, Chaplain, Royal Navy assisted by Father Andrew Jolly and Clergy from the Sacred Heart Church and the Service included contributions from Ian's children.

Tributes were led by Commander Ian Breckenridge, CO HMS ASTUTE and concluded with a very moving tribute by Ian's wife Gill Molyneux.

The composure of Gill and her four young children throughout a very difficult day was most remarkable. The Church Service was followed by Committal and Burial in the Gidlow Cemetery in Wigan at which the Association Standards were also in attendance and a Bugler played the Last Post and Reveille. The Wake was held in the Hospitality Suite in the South Stand of the Wigan Dragons Stadium. All in all the day was a very fitting farewell and tribute to a well respected Naval

Officer, professional engineer and family man who lost his life in such very tragic and unexplainable circumstances.



St George's Day Parade 2011

This year's St George's Day Parade took place on Easter Monday, 25th April, which was a bit of a change as it is usually held on the Sunday closest to the 23rd April which is the actual date of St. George's Day. This year, of course Easter Sunday events at St George's Church took precedence so the Parade had to be re-arranged.

Those parading formed up in the Town Hall Square at 1240 for the presentation of roses to the Standard Bearers. There were a larger number of Standards than usual this year including ours from the Submariners Association, paraded by 'Ginge' Cundell and several from Millom plus a Standard we had not seen before with a Camel on it to representing those who had served in Egypt.

The Parade marched off at 1300 led by the Sea Cadet Band and followed up by the Mayoral Party for the St George's Church in this, the 150th Anniversary of the Church, for the Service conducted by the Reverend Linda Cronin. On completion of the Service the Parade marched off to the Bus Embarkation point for transport to the Engineers for an afternoon's Social event.



New Members

Joining the Branch in April
Mark Butchart-HMS Ambush
Dave Morgan-HMS Ambush
Eric Hamer
A warm welcome to you all

Chaplains Dit May 2011

New Beginnings

A couple of days ago I sat at my computer seeking some inspiration, that would help me pen a newsletter article, now that I have the freedom of not writing as your Chairman. I came across the above abstract image that I have called "New Beginnings" because it reminded me all about the true meaning of Easter remembered this time of year on the Christian lectionary calendar.



New beginnings are happening within our branch, with David Barlow having been elected to be our Chairman for the next three years, and David has my heartiest congratulations and support, as he leads us towards our special fiftieth anniversary.

There is the news of Barrie Downer's daughter Penny having given birth to her first child a baby Boy Max Henry, thus giving Barrie and Margaret an extra item on their "Grandparents to do list", when buying Easter Eggs and all things nice. As I have already said, it is my intention to continue to serve the branch as a Committee Member and your Lay Chaplain and all that entails. To this end I can report that I have been in contact with Mike Bycroft, as he and Pat his wife often go past my house on the way to Askam's shops. I can report that he is still in a serious condition and is currently part way through a course of thirty visits to the Neurological Unit at Preston's Royal Hospital. I have however managed to deliver, on behalf of the branch, get well card along with Primula plant from my garden. Mike has sent his

thanks, and really appreciated the thoughts from everyone, and says the Primula has now been transplanted as pride of place in his allotment. I feel it would be a good thing if others, especially those who sailed with him or worked with Mike in the yard, were to pass on their encouragement and support, as battles against the tumour. His address is 8 Stafford Street Askam LA16 7BZ.

I shall end with a thought of the month lifted from a calendar in my study.

"The greatest discovery is that nothing is impossible" anon

Regards Jonsey

CANNON BALLS

It was necessary to keep a good supply of cannon balls near the cannon on old war ships. But how to prevent them from rolling about the deck was the problem. The storage method devised was to stack them as a square based pyramid, with one ball on top, resting on four, resting on nine, which rested on sixteen.

Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem -- how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding/rolling from under the others.

The solution was a metal plate with 16 round indentations, called, for reasons unknown, a Monkey. But if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it.

The solution to the rusting problem was to make them of brass -- hence, Brass Monkeys. Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey.

Thus, it was quite literally, cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.

And all this time, folks thought that was just a vulgar expression



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Essex Branch

April 2011

J P (John) Coughlan

LME

C/KX 772105

Aged 81

Submarine Service 1948-1955

Turpin, Totem, Springer, Sportsman

Sea Devil, Aeneas, Anchorite

Scythian

Gosport Branch

April 2011

G E (AL) Spencer

Stoker Mechanic

P/SKX 885081

Aged 79

Submarine Service 1953-'956

Amphion

Essex Branch

3rd April

H L (Bill) Dartford

Leading Seaman (LTO)

Aged 90

Submarine Service 1940-1944

Sealion & Seadog

Non Member

8th April

Ian Molyneux

Lieutenant Commander

C038253J

Submarine Service to 8th April

Including Ambush & Astute

Portsmouth Branch

13th April 2011

Cyril Sothcott BEM

Chief Engine room Artificer

P/MX 55214

Aged 89

Submarine Service 1941-1946

Satyr, Saga, Sanguine, Tireless

Toke, Solent & Aeneas

Submarine Officers Association

April 2011

Lieutenant Commander

M C M (Micheal) Plumridge

*Lord these departed shipmates
with Dolphins on their chest are
part of an outfit known as the best.*

*Make them welcome and take
them by the hand you'll find with-
out they are the best in the land.*

*So Heavenly father add their
names to the roll of our departed
shipmates still on patrol let them
know that we who survive will
always keep there memories
alive.*



A Short Love Story

A man and a woman who had never met before, But who were both married to other people, Found themselves assigned to the same sleeping room on a Trans-continental train.



Though initially embarrassed and uneasy over sharing a room, They were both very tired and fell asleep quickly, he in the upper berth and she in the lower.

At 1:00 AM, the man leaned down and gently woke the woman saying, 'Ma'am, I'm sorry to bother you, but would you be willing to reach into the closet to get me a second blanket? I'm awfully cold.'

'I have a better idea,' she replied 'Just for tonight, let's pretend that we're married.'

'Wow! . That's a great idea!', he exclaimed.

'Good,' she replied. 'Get your own ****ing blanket.'

After a moment of silence, he farted

HMS Raleigh 1953

A young stoker boy now a branch member, who is he ?.



www.astuteclass.com

May 2011	
Members Birthdays	
T. Fell	04/05
D. Smith	06/05
D. Cooper	07/05
D. Barlow	09/05
A. Evans	09/05
D. Wade	11/05
N. Hildrew	12/05
K. Brumby	17/05
P. Winsland	19/05
C. Roberts	20/05
C. Madin	21/05
T. Spurling	22/05
C. Chittenden	25/05
I. Walsh	25/05
R. Britten	31/05
N. Lowden	31/05



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 May for the June 2011 issue please try and have any information with me by the **15th of each month**. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition.



Social Calendar 2011

May

- 3rd May Monthly Meeting 2000 RBL
- 13th May Annual Dinner Dance Lisdoonie 1930
- 17th May Branch Committee Meeting 1930 RBL
- 28th May Magennis Dinner W/E

June

- 7th June Monthly Meeting (Social Ladies) Quiz 2000 RBL
- 21st June Branch Committee Meeting 1930 RBL





Solve the submarine wordsquare

We hope you enjoyed last month's wordsquare.

If any of it proved tricky, the solution is at the foot of the page. This month we have a wordsquare based on ladies who have launched ships or submarines at Barrow.

If you have any comments or suggestions on how our puzzles can be improved or developed, drop an email to Bill Myers at bill.myers@nwemail.co.uk

CLUES

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. ALEXANDRA | 7. VICTORIA |
| 2. ANNE | 8. JOAN |
| 3. MARGARET | 9. JANET |
| 4. LOUISE | 10. AUDREY |
| 5. CAMILLA | 11. EMILY |
| 6. ELIZABETH | 12. MARY |

E	C	J	A	Y	E	O	J	K	I	Y	S
L	S	V	I	C	T	O	R	I	A	E	E
M	V	U	N	N	A	H	U	L	R	R	L
I	A	O	A	N	Y	N	E	O	R	D	T
C	L	R	E	M	C	X	R	U	T	U	J
N	I	G	Y	O	A	E	O	I	H	A	A
I	E	A	E	N	M	R	B	S	N	U	C
V	N	R	D	Q	I	L	G	E	E	O	S
N	N	R	N	R	L	A	T	A	G	U	D
I	A	O	N	Y	L	L	B	Y	R	A	E
S	C	C	L	L	A	Y	L	I	M	E	E
G	H	H	T	E	B	A	Z	I	L	E	T

Last month's wordsquare solution (below)

E	C	J	A	Y	E	O	J	K	I	G	S
L	S	S	H	E	F	F	I	E	L	D	E
B	V	U	N	N	A	H	U	C	R	O	L
I	A	O	A	I	Y	N	O	O	R	A	T
C	L	E	E	D	B	H	R	V	T	T	S
N	I	G	R	O	P	E	O	E	H	E	A
I	A	A	E	L	U	C	B	N	I	U	C
V	N	R	O	Q	R	L	E	T	N	O	S
N	T	U	N	R	E	A	R	R	G	U	D
I	E	O	N	Y	X	L	B	Y	H	A	E
S	C	C	L	L	D	L	A	R	E	H	E
G	H	E	T	I	Y	R	U	B	D	E	L



LAUNCH LADIES: Lady Mary Soames launching HMS Churchill in honour of her father, the former Prime Minister, in 1968. She if you can find the rest of the 'launch ladies' in our wordsquare

From: Rear Admiral I Corder



Rear Admiral Submarines
Maritime Operations Centre
Northwood Headquarters
Sandy Lane,
NORTHWOOD, Middlesex
HA6 3HP

14 April 2010

Fellow Submariner,

You will almost certainly have heard by now of the horrific shooting incident that occurred onboard HMS ASTUTE alongside in Southampton last Friday which resulted in the death of the WEO (Lt Cdr Ian Molyneux), the serious wounding of the MEO (Lt Cdr Chris Hodge), and the arrest of a member of the ship's company on several counts of murder and attempted murder. I have no doubt that you have been as shocked as I was by the occurrence and I thought that you might appreciate a little background and perspective against which to frame your understanding of what occurred and how it is now being managed.

The first thing to say is that this is clearly a Police matter and that Hampshire Constabulary (who responded extremely rapidly and efficiently at the scene) are in the lead together with the Crown Prosecution Service. Criminal proceedings will almost certainly arise and the Service is therefore limited in what it can do or say until that process has run its course. It is naïve to presume that there won't be speculation (in the press or otherwise) between now and the completion of proceedings but please treat any as just that, speculation. Secondly, you would wish to know that Chris Hodge is now off the very serious list and there are increasing grounds for optimism that he will make a good recovery. Third, I can assure you that the full range of careful and sensitive support is being provided to Ian and Chris's families and friends.

I would also make a number of more general points. As is often the case in such circumstances, it is already becoming clear that a number of the ship's company acquitted themselves with distinction in the difficult minutes and hours immediately after the incident; be it in administering emergency first aid, dealing with shocked and frightened visitors, looking after the boat, and generally managing the immediate aftermath in a calm and professional manner. Subsequently, I have also been hugely impressed with the submarine's determination, almost as testament to Ian's memory, to press ahead with taking the boat he was so proud of forward into Service. I can reassure you all that ASTUTE is shaping up to be a fine submarine and a generational leap forward from the T-class. For those of you with experiences of bringing a new class into service, you will know the process is lengthy and challenging, but by comparison with past efforts it is going well. We are becoming increasingly aware of the true extent of her latent capability and there is a growing sense of anticipation at her forthcoming entry into full operational service next year.

Finally, I would be remiss in a letter such as this if I didn't point out the outstanding contribution the submarine service is making to what is one of the most complex operational situations worldwide we have faced for some years. The degree of instability across key areas of the globe, most notably the wider middle east and north Africa, is a major cause of international concern and Our submariners are playing a leading role in the UK's response; be it in strike operations off Libya, extended deployments east of Suez, or more traditional Atlantic operations, including of course the maintenance of the deterrent. Our people are as good as they ever were, our boats are better and an event such as last Friday, as tragic as it was, will only serve to refocus the efforts of all serving submariners to deliver operational success, in the very best traditions of the flotilla. I will of course keep you informed about any submarine community measures we may put in place to honour Ian's memory and/or support his wife and their four children.

Yours aye,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'I Corder', written in a cursive style.