



# PERISCOPE VIEW

The Newsletter of the Barrow-in Furness Branch  
of  
The Submariners Association  
Patron: Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL

Issue No: 198

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

December 2016



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Cover Picture: **Barrow Branch Members march up Abbey Road on the 2016 Remembrance Day Parade**

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### **EDITORIAL**

Hello Everybody.

December again – it seems to be only yesterday that we were planning for Christmas & the New Year and here we are again!

Dave Barlow is covering the Remembrance Ceremonies in his Report so I won't duplicate his words other than to thank everyone who attended the Ceremonies this year both in London and in Barrow.

Once again, this year I put Poppy Crosses on various Graves in the Thorncliffe Cemetery. The Graves are those of Commander Alistair Cumming who died during WWII (but not in action), Chief ERA Harry Jenner (who was killed when the Trevelyan Hotel was bombed), Stoker John Henry Curtis (who was drowned in Devonshire Dock when returning on board HMS HAZARD) in 1902 and Stoker Walter George Stone (who was also drowned in Devonshire Dock) after slipping from the gangway of HMS HAZARD in 1906. HMS HAZARD for those who don't know was a Submarine Support Vessel and in both cases, was in Barrow Docks to collect and escort newly built Submarines to Portsmouth. I also mark the grave of one non-submariner – a Midshipman from Barrow Island who was killed in WWI in an accident when 'Coaling Ship'.

After quite a few years of providing Stewards for the Council at the switching on of the Barrow Christmas

Lights (and in some case) minding the reindeer our efforts were not called for this year. The Lights this year were not organised by the Town Hall but the arrangements were put in place by a new team at short notice. However quite a few members were at the 'Switching on' and Bob Pointer and myself were shaking tins in aid of a collection for the Mayor's Charities.

For those who usually go to the K13 Weekend in Faslane next year's event over the Weekend 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2017 is a special one – it's the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the accident.

Well that's about it for this issue. A big thank you to everyone who has supported the Association and the Branch in the past year. It only remains to say that I hope to see you all at the Branch Christmas Party and hope that you all have a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

And don't forget that Branch Subs for 2017 are now due – Mick will happily relieve you of the cash (£20 - £15 for National and £5 for the Branch) at the January Meeting. To make it easier for him (and in case you forget when its due) a Standing Order to the Branch Account takes all the worry away!

See you at the January Branch Meeting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – 1930 start time – don't be late!

Regards

Barrie Downer

## CHAIRMAN'S DIT

Hello again.

That's our busiest month over. I went down to London to attend the Memorial Service at the Submarine Memorial on the Victoria Embankment. Well - actually - it was in the Middle Temple Gardens across the road because the new 'Boris' cycle way prevents us having the service in front of the Memorial itself. On completion of the service the wreaths are taken across by a platoon of Sea Cadets and then put in their proper place on the Memorial itself.



**The Wreaths at the Middle Temple Gardens**

Apart from the PA System being not up to scratch it was an excellent day. Dry but cold. There were quite a lot from Barrow too including a lot from AUDACIOUS. Mark (Butch) Butchart read out the names of the lost submarines as he has done for the past 4 years, and Dave Smith laid the Barrow Branch wreath. Mark was resplendent in his new uniform having been promoted to Petty Officer a couple of weeks before. Well Done Mark - it is well deserved. Gill Molyneux (widow of Lt Cdr Ian Molyneux) brought down the Wigan Sea Cadets which have been renamed TS Molyneux in memory of Ian Molyneux. Also, Colin Taylor who moved away from Barrow a year or so ago asked me to pass on his regards which I now do.

I then represented the branch at the Keswick to Barrow Awards Ceremony where I was pleased to receive a donation of £700 which will go into our Charity Chest to help us in our charitable work.



**Dave Barlow with the K2B Cheque**

Alex Webb once again did us proud in the organisation of the Annual Ladies Night. It was an excellent evening; food, wine, entertainment and company all good. I was pleased to host our Mayor Councillor Anita Husband and her friend Lisa who were great company.

We had a great turnout for the Remembrance Day Parade and the AE 1 & 2 Memorial and wreath laying immediately prior to that. We had a good number marching but the platoon more than doubled when we go to the Cenotaph where we were joined by those who were unable to march. My thanks also go to the Co-operative Funeral Care who once again provided a limousine free of charge to take some of our members for their home to the Cenotaph.

Finally, my thanks go to the branch members in AUDACIOUS led by Digger Gardner who have agreed to assist in preparing and distributing the Xmas Hampers for our widows. Thanks guys, it is much appreciated.

That's all for now, see you at the December meeting.

Regards

**Dave**

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## SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

Hi Shipmates.

November saw the dinner dance, once again it wasn't attended as well as I would have hoped but we had a great evening. I have been informed that some members think the price for these all-inclusive evenings is too much, taking this into consideration I will organise future functions leaving the alcohol purchasing down to the individuals attending; hopefully this will entice more members to support events – we shall see!!!

### Diary Check

We are down to the last two social events for this year on Saturday 17th December; the children's party (12-3) is fully booked and is subsequently closed.

The evening Christmas party is from 7:30 till late and will be lots of fun. The entertainer is arguably one of Barrow's best vocal entertainers - Denis Horan; and those of you who have seen him before know Denis brings a party to life with his lively, enthusiastic singing, ending as always with a disco. The food arrangement (back by popular demand) is bring a plate, there will be some festive fun and games to be had, a special Christmas raffle and the £100 ticket giveaway – 4 x £25 will be won on the night by the lucky ticket holders – at £5 a ticket this is not to be missed. If you need any more encouragement to attend, please remember Micky Dack celebrates his 80th birthday on this night and he hates being made a fuss off – so turn up and irritate the hell out of him by making a fuss.

Bring along your families, your friends and/or your work colleagues for the best Christmas party in town.

Members draw was not won in November and stands at £10 for December meeting and don't forget to get your birthday boy beer at the meeting which starts at the new time of 7:30pm.

I am attending the annual conference in March and am contemplating travelling by coach or hiring a self-drive and stopping off at the Arboretum prior to going to Leicester on the Friday. If anyone is interested in having a hassle free, chauffeur driven trip to and from the conference which will include the chance to visit the Arboretum then please get in touch. I need at least 12 to make this happen and the cost per person will be dependent on the numbers but should be no more than £20 per person for the travel.

Finally, I am working on the 2017 social programme so if you have any suggestions then send them my way and I see if I can get something sorted.

Let's finish off the year with a fantastic Christmas party – thanks for your continued support.

Alex Webb, Social Secretary

### DECEMBER BRANCH CALENDAR

|                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Branch Meeting             | Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec   |
| Children's Christmas Party | Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec |
| Members Christmas Party    | Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec |
| Committee Meeting          | As Required                   |

### JANUARY BRANCH CALENDAR

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Branch Meeting    | Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan                    |
| K13 Weekend       | W/E 27 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan |
| Committee Meeting | As Required                                 |

### FEBRUARY BRANCH CALENDAR

|                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Branch Meeting    | Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb |
| Committee Meeting | As Required                 |

### DECEMBER BRANCH BIRTHDAYS

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| L.W (Lindsey) Thwaites | 02/12/1965 |
| P.G. (Paul) Douglas    | 03/12/1965 |
| G.S. (Stan) Livingston | 06/12/1947 |
| I (Ian) MacIntyre      | 11/12/1964 |
| M. (Mick) Bown         | 15/12/1945 |
| M.J. (Mike) Dack       | 17/12/1936 |
| N.S. (Mo) Morrison     | 07/12/1955 |
| D. Cattroll            | 28/12/1957 |
| D. (Daniel) Carter     | 29/12/1978 |
| T.D. (Terence) Pyne    | 31/12/1934 |
| D Thompson             | 31/12/1946 |

Happy Birthday to you all!

### SUBMARINE LOSSES OF WWI

One Submarine were lost with all hands in December 1916.

#### Submarine E37

This Submarine was lost on the night of 30th November/1st December 1916 although the CWGC Records quote a date of Sunday 3rd December 1916. Lieutenant Commander Robert Fellowes Chisholm had sailed from Harwich in company with E54 (Lieutenant Commander Robert Raikes). It is thought that E37 was lost in a minefield off Orford Ness. Those lost in E37 were:

#### Officers:

Lieutenant Commander Robert Fellowes Chisholm,  
Lieutenant Phillip Harlock, Royal Navy  
Lieutenant Alfred Norman Headley, RNR

#### Ratings:

PO William Samuel Archer O/N 216685 (Po)  
PO William Urquhart O/N 137549 (Dev)  
L/Sea John Rodway Adams O/N 235273 (Po)  
L/Sea Lambert Herbert Edgcombe O/N J3198 (Dev)  
L/Sea Charles Thomas Jenks O/N 230061 (Po)  
L/Sea Thomas Mutton O/N 230864 (Dev)  
AB Frederick Thomas Cowlard O/N J1491 (Po)  
AB Ernest Cran O/N J6921 (Ch)  
AB Harry Emery O/N 237705 (Dev)  
AB Edward Greaves O/N J10651 (Po)  
AB Horace Leonard Mellor O/N J13179 (Ch)  
Sig Joseph Charlton Hoodless O/N J7114 (Dev)  
Ord Tel Thomas Eckford Powell O/N J36119 (Ch)  
CERA Ralph Saint Havery O/N SS100180 (Ch)  
ERA James Alexander O/N RNR/Po/1733/EA (Po)  
ERA Herbert George Barrenger O/N M1522 (Po)  
ERA David Hourston O/N M2807 (Dev)  
SPO George Edward Woodger O/N K3353 (Ch)  
L/Sto Joseph Alfred Matkin O/N K3242 (Po)  
L/Sto Charles John Parr O/N K38 (Ch)  
Sto 1 William Henry Chapman O/N K21466 (Po)  
Sto 1 Ernest Ellender O/N K19308 (Ch)  
Sto 1 Thomas Henry May O/N K8965 (Dev)  
Sto 1 William Mockridge O/N K20060 (Ch)  
Sto 1 Tom Powell O/N SS109778 (Po)  
Sto 1 Richard Sadler O/N K19977 (Po)  
Sto 1 Ernest Salter O/N K16990 (Dev)

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### **SUBMARINE E5 FOUND**

By James Tozer for the Daily Mail  
21<sup>st</sup> November 2016

Found, a WWI submarine that took twenty-nine men to their doom: The fate of brave British sailors who vanished at sea is finally revealed after the ship's hull is found off the Dutch coast one hundred years later. Submarine E5, which is reported to be the first British Submarine to fire a torpedo in WWI, vanished in 1916.

Divers have now found the hull of HMS E5 off the coast of the Netherlands. The Submarine is thought to have struck a mine while rescuing survivors from trawler. The hatches were found open in poignant indication that crew may have tried to escape

For just over one hundred years it has kept its secrets, lying almost forgotten on the seabed. But now the descendants of the twenty-nine brave crewmen who died at last know its fate.

Divers found the remarkably intact hull of HMS E5 off the coast of the Netherlands after securing an agreement for a brief suspension of the busy shipping lane beneath which it rests.

Built in Barrow-in-Furness and commissioned in 1913, HMS E5 – the Royal Navy didn't start naming its submarines until 1942 – was feared to have struck a mine while rescuing survivors from a stricken trawler near Heligoland Bight on March 7, 1916.



**A century under the sea: A diver examines part of the wreck**

The Submarine's resting place remained a mystery until amateur maritime archaeologists won permission to examine a wreck off Schiermonnikoog, near the German border.

Encrusted with limpets and barnacles, it proved to be that of the 178 foot E5, its hatches open in a poignant indication that its crew made a vain effort to escape.

Its conning tower, which once bore its identifying 'Pennant Number' of 85, lay nearby on the seabed but there was no sign of major damage to the hull, indicating that it was not sunk because of enemy action.

Remy Luttkik, who led the Zeester diving team, said: 'A piece of the puzzle of the maritime history of the North Sea has surfaced. The results offer hope for relatives looking for their missing loved ones.'

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### **Submariners Embankment Memorial Parade 2016**

Four hundred serving and veteran Submariners, including from WWII, attended this year's Submariners' Remembrance Service and Parade at Middle Temple Gardens, Embankment, London, on Sunday, 6th November.

This unique service and parade is held each year to honour Submariners of all generations who have 'Crossed the Bar' in service to their country.

The salute this year was taken by Rear Admiral John Weale, OBE who is Rear Admiral, Submarines, Flag Officer Scotland & Northern Ireland, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (SM).

Other dignitaries attending include Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce, KG, GCB, OBE, DL the Patron of the Submariners Association; Rear Admiral Niall Kilgour CB, President of the Submariners Association; and Mr. Michael Welbank the Chief Commoner of London.

The wreath on behalf of Submariners' widows was laid by Mrs Gillian Molyneux, whose husband Lieutenant Commander Ian Molyneux was tragically killed in the shooting incident on board the submarine HMS ASTUTE in Southampton in 2011.

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### **NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Do you have a story to tell or have information you feel should appear in the Newsletter then ring Barrie Downer on 01229 820963 or if you wish to send me an article my postal address is listed above under Committee Members? You may also send your contribution by e-mail to me [barrie@downer55.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:barrie@downer55.freeserve.co.uk). Come on – every Submariner has a story to tell – some more than one! Let's see yours in print!

Constructive suggestions about the newsletter are also very welcome. The newsletter will be published in the last week of each month i.e. the last week in June for the July 2016 issue. Please ensure you have any information with me by the 15th of the month to ensure its inclusion in the next issue. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition – keep them stories coming!

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### **AUDACIOUS 'LEEDS' THE WAY SUBMARINE AFFILIATED WITH YORKSHIRE CITY**

23 November 2016

New submarine HMS AUDACIOUS will be bound with the West Yorkshire city of Leeds – and its famous football team – throughout her active life.

Crew from the boat, nearing completion in Barrow, headed to Leeds to kick-start the relationship by taking

part in Remembrance Events and touring the Elland Road football stadium.



After six years without one of Her Majesty's warships to take under their wing, the people of Leeds now have a bond with the Royal Navy once again.

The Yorkshire powerhouse, for seven decades associated with a succession of HMS ARK ROYALS, will be the affiliated city of new hunter-killer submarine HMS AUDACIOUS.

The fourth of the Astute Class boats is in the closing stages of completion inside the gigantic Devonshire Hall at BAE's Yard in Barrow, alongside boats 5, 6 and 7 and HMS DREADNOUGHT, the first of the next-generation nuclear deterrent submarines.

Leeds' links with RN warships goes back to ARK ROYAL III which was 'adopted' by the city shortly before she was sunk in 1941; its inhabitants then raised around £9m towards the build of a replacement which came in the form of ARK ROYAL IV, the famous 'Audacious' Class carrier which served for a quarter of a century.

And most recently Leeds had a strong association with the ARK ROYAL 'Harrier Carrier'.



But with her demise following the 2010 Defence Review, the famous name has been in abeyance – and Leeds has been shipless.

Members of AUDACIOUS' crew visited Leeds United's Elland Road home for a tour during the recent international break and were then seen pounding the city centre streets during the civic Armistice Day parade.

The affiliation with the football team – currently enjoying their most successful season in a decade – will

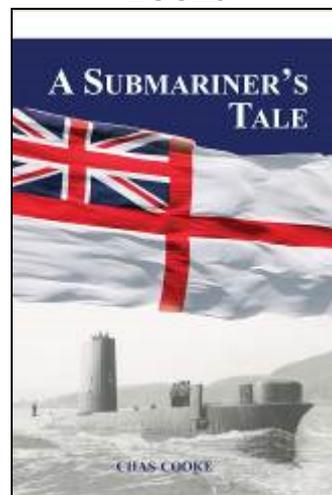
be cemented when the submariners are invited to attend the home clash with Reading on December 13.

"We are delighted to announce an affiliation with Leeds and this bond of friendship has been extended to Leeds United who are keen supporters of the Armed Forces," said AUDACIOUS' Logistics Officer Lt Noel Wilson.

"We look forward to marching on together and further building the links already formed when we attend the Reading game"

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## BOOKS



This book will be of interest to Submariners both past & present. Former Petty Officer (TI) 'Chas' Cooke tells the story of his life in submarines (both Diesel & Nuclear) with verve and relish, including details of 'how it was' that some others might perhaps leave unsaid when describing their underwater experiences. Sanitary systems in both types of boats account for a good number of his yarns with details of 'getting your own back' which many will be familiar. 'Chas' tells it 'warts and all' once you start reading you will not want to put the book down.

'A Submariners Tale' (ISBN: 9781904459705) is available from Navy Books at £10.99

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## Royal Navy Hunts Russian Subs Off Scotland (Echoes of the Cold War?)

14th November 2016

Several Russian submarines were reportedly being hunted off the UK coast.

Three NATO search planes, Royal Navy anti-submarine frigate HMS SUTHERLAND and a Trafalgar Class hunter-killer submarine have been scouring seas off the West of Scotland in the search, according to the Sun newspaper.

It quotes a Whitehall source as saying: "There are believed to be multiple Russian submarines off the coast of Scotland. Various assets have been deployed to identify their location and understand their intentions." It's believed the submarines are nuclear-powered Akula-Class boats.



A Russian Submarine

Russia is believed to have nine currently in service, each with a crew of around seventy. It comes after three Russian submarines reportedly joined the Russian Naval Battle Group reportedly heading towards Syria last month. The Royal Navy and NATO were said to have been tracking two Akula Class Submarines and a diesel-powered Kilo Class boat.

The Russian Submarines were believed to have been making their way towards the Russian fleet headed by the aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov, which travelled through the English Channel last month.

It was reported last May, meanwhile, that Canadian submarine HMCS WINDSOR had been sent on a similar underwater hunt after Russia deployed five attack subs to the North Atlantic. A Royal Navy spokesman said: "It's our long-standing policy that we don't comment on submarine operations. As part of our £178bn equipment plan the UK has a range of assets

## THE FUTURE OF SUBMARINE ESCAPE TRAINING

(Adapted from the Navy News)

A purpose-built new Submarine Escape Training Complex will open for Submariners in Faslane in 2018 as the Base becomes the home of the Silent Service.

Defence firm Babcock has been awarded a contract to deliver Submarine Escape, Rescue, Abandonment and Survival training (known in the Service as SMERAS) to Submarine crews.

For decades - and long after operational boats left the Hampshire port - Submarine Rescue Training has been concentrated in Gosport, whose waterfront is still dominated by the iconic Submarine Escape Training Tank.

With all boats - hunter killers and deterrent submarines - based in or in the process of being moved to the Clyde, state-of-the-art, class specific escape towers & compartments will be built in Faslane.

In addition, the new complex will feature classrooms with computer systems which cover all elements of escape, rescue, abandonment and survival training, new office facilities, workshops and changing areas.

A standalone instructor-led live environment training pool will also be added, capable of replicating the environmental conditions in which submarine escapes may have to take place.

The combination of 'dry' and 'wet' training, says Babcock, will give submariners the chance to experience 'real-world' situations without the need for 'pressurised' environments.

By Editor. Reading this article in conjunction with the recent news that HMS DOLPHIN is one of the sites about to be sold off by the MoD makes me wonder how long before the 'Tank' and other familiar buildings are demolished to make way for expensive and unaffordable luxury housing.

## NOVEMBER QUIZ QUESTION

### ANSWERS!

The photo was supplied to Bob Palmer by our Canadian colleague 'Beastie' Beale:

Only one answer was received – Blood Reed thought that it was HMS TACITURN (correct) in Australia in 1964 to 1966 (incorrect) with Bob Palmer (front row right - correct) and Chef Barry Watts (back row left – but see Bob's answers below!)

- |    |                                 |   |
|----|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Who are these six Submariners?  | Back row (l. to r.) Signalman Harry Welman, unknown, unknown<br>Front row (l. to r.) 'Beastie' Beale, ERA B R Hopkins, Bob Palmer |
| 2. | Where was the photo taken?      | In the Kiel Canal - all wearing uniform (to avoid bad publicity about 'Pirate Rig')   |
| 3. | Which Submarine is it?          | TACITURN  |
| 4. | Who was the Commanding Officer? | Lt Cdr Gilbert  |
| 5. | When was the photograph taken?  | Sometime in 1961/1962 (before arriving with SM4 in Australia on 17 <sup>th</sup> December 1962)                                   |
| 6. | Who took the Photograph?        | Not known   |

Sorry - No Prizes!



### CROSSED THE BAR NOVEMBER 2016

| Branch                  | Date                         | Name                | Rank/Rating                   | O/N          | Age | Submarine Service  |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-----|--|
| Brierley Hill Branch    | Nov 2016                     | Reginald F Jones    | Able Seaman (ST)              | D/JX 417904  | 92  | Submarine Service from July 1943 to July 1946 in STURDY, STATESMAN & SCYTHIAN  |
| Non-Member              | Nov 2016                     | Colin R Ware        | Chief Petty Officer (RS) (SM) | N/K          | 72  | Submarine Service in PENGUIN on 'Commissioning' on 18th August 1967, AUROCHS, ODIN, ASTUTE, OXLEY, OTWAY, OVENS & ONSLOW |
| Burton on Trent Branch  | Nov 2016                     | William Larter      | Stoker 1st Class              | P/SKX 770571 | 86  | Submarine Service from 1949 to 1954 in SIDON & SCYTHIAN  |
| Northern Ireland Branch | 22nd Nov 2016                | George Henry        | Acting Leading Radio Operator | P/SSX 911938 | 80  | Submarine Service from 1957 to 1960 in SENESCHAL, SUBTLE & TALLY HO  |
| Australia               | Nov 2016                     | Peter J Foster, CSM | Commander RAN                 | 8297680      | 80  | RN Submarine Service in TRAFALGAR Class & RAN Service in DECHAINEUX  |
| John M Jessop           | 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2016 | John M Jessop       | Captain                       | N/A          | 90  | Submarine Service in DOLPHIN, ARTEMIS & TELEMACHUS   |

## K26 – THE STEAM SUBMARINE (Part 14)

(By O/N J98553)

### PUSSY CAT, PUSSY CAT, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

I have already told you that the priests in Malta were fat, and the cats thin. The cat that was in Chico's dghaisa one autumn day as young Demicoli brought our eatables aboard was no exception. He was, the cat, small, glossy, black and thin. Of an enquiring mind he stepped in and out of boats, climbed trees, and ran round the legs of gharry horses. He hopped out of the dghaisa and on to the thin end of the port saddle tank where paper bags of custard-powder, rice, raisins, rhubarb, and other eatables were being passed down to the Stoker's Mess or dope-den.

Actually, the delivery was rather late, steam was up, the bow and stern were both held on slip-ropes, the yeoman had just asked Captain 'S' One, for permission to proceed, all was hustle, organised hustle, but hustle just the same. One of the Stokers had a kind thought, one and a half comfort-sardines were in a tin left over from breakfast. He patted pussy, stuck the can down in the dark for'd corner of the Stoker's hatch and lowered pussy, four legs stiffly pointing down upon the tin. At that very moment Whalley was singing out, as a lamp bobbed in Douglas; to the Captain who stood high up for'd, on the high-power periscope. "Permission to proceed. Good luck with attack." "Slip!" said the Captain. "Acknowledge with thanks, you know Whalley." "Aye, aye, Sir." "Slow ahead port engine". "Dong, dong." You know all that business, back to pussy.

By the time the after part had stowed the wires and lined up, looking like a group photo of the combined goalkeepers of Arsenal, Raith Rovers, Chelsea, Coventry City, Liverpool and Huddersfield, the Stoker was about to shut the Stoker's hatch and he saw the cat having, a last lick at the olive oil. No, it could not have been tomato, comfort sardines were embalmed, if that's the word, always in olive oil and came as my memory serves me from Portugal. I will explain 'Comfort' sardines as compared with any other sardines. Certain kind-hearted people, long before I joined submarines, had considered the life of a submariner, well, "not a very happy one", much in the manner of Gilbert, who was, of course, was concerned with policeman. In order to bring light and comfort into his life, the submariner, that is, they organised a supply of rare and exotic foods for him, called comforts.

There was, I recall, tinned bacon, not an all-out success, because it was much interleaved with greaseproof paper which stuck to the tender cooked bacon, and could rarely be detached. The bacon tasted fine, but the mass of paper you could not avoid, added to the trouble which is most prevalent at sea in submarines - constipation. I have heard from a medical friend that "six days in a sub will cure dysentery." I believe him.

Then there were tinned Cambridge sausages, I thought at the time that there were Oxford sausages too, but I never saw any. Now they were marvellous, not much flavour on their own, but when well soaked in Worcestershire sauce from a recipe knocked up in an idle moment by a noble man of the county delicious. Well, delicious for the first three days let's say. Then bottled fruit, greengages, plums, gooseberries, oooh, oh, yum, and again yum; and the sardines aforesaid, nice, but not too often, for as Tims used to say, "Lo, for the sardine which goeth down at teatime, repeateth twice before midnight", and old Tims was right. Oh yes, the cat.

Stoker in dilemma, got to shut hatch, cannot stop boat, thinks. The First Lieut, makes up his mind for him, raising his megaphone he calls, "Send that Stoker below, shut the Stoker's hatch." It does not need the Sub. Lieut. of the after part to relay this message. Stokes whips up cat, drops him down below. "B...BoongJ" goes the hatch and, by Navy-phone; a sort of telephone specially invented to contain all the bad features of the various telephones of the whole world, reports to the Control Room, "Stoker's hatch shut and clipped". He is of course below it.

Pussy sees lights, feels warmth, strolls into Stoker's Mess. Stoker Wells says, "Look, a black cat". "Hat?" "Cat". "What? The Stoker responsible throws pussy on the Mess table, five Stokers stroke him and dive under the Mess table to the tea chest. In the tea chest resides the tinned milk, tins and tins of it. Eventually, one Stoker withdraws a tin of milk. I refuse to say can, for that is American and our submarine is British though may be the Stoker who opened the tin was called Lough or Bevan, in which case he would tell you he was Scots or Welsh, whichever he was you see, it is a belief in the Royal Navy that a cat will die if not filled up with milk every ten minutes or so. In Cruisers, Battle Ships (when we had 'em!), aircraft carriers (while we still hang on to them), corvettes, destroyers, frigates, submarines, gunboats, this queer belief has always existed. It probably persists to this day in atomic submarines, like an act of faith, and every tarpot reaches automatically for a tin of milk and an opener when he sees a cat. Well, a saucer, a generous dollop of Ideal and pussy's pink tongue is putting a shine on the saucer with the little picture of an anchor one side and the words "A.P. Stoke-on-Trent" on the other.

The noble vessel surges on. Back here in the Stoker's Mess the propeller shafts are very audible. A Stoker brings out an old blue jersey, spreads it on a piece of ship's hull and puts pussy on it. It is early still, but puss does not mind. He was probably thinking what cultured people he had fallen in with, they wished him to rest, he would rest. He did. The Stokers lowered their conversation, they had no wish to keep pussy awake. Stoker 'Trader' Horne said "There will be trouble if he's seen." Leading Stoker Nutbeam so far forgot his duty to report the presence, and he was already guilty, he had stroked it and called it "Tibby Ibbly". He was an accessory after the fact. Jock Lough said, "it's a nice wee thing" they agreed, they crumbled up pages of the Steam Manual and hung them on bits of string over the puss when he woke up. He humoured them, they translated his movements into left hooks and straight rights. Stoker Bevan was five minutes late relieving in the for'd boiler room. "Where the hell you been?" asked Stoker Bolt. "I was playing with the cat", said Bevan. "The time passed so quickly". Bolt lumbered aft through the Motor Room. Berkshire was cutting his toe nails half-naked

as the place was warming up. "Lo Berks what's this about a cat?" "Cat?" "Yes, old Dai said there was a cat on board". "I've not seen it" said Berkshire. I would, say it was fifteen seconds only from then that Bolt was diving under the table for a tin of Ideal. "We've fed it" said eight Stoker in chorus, so Bolt just stroked it a little and called it "Issy Wissy". My informant for this is Stoker 'Trader' Horne, who said he had not suspected this vein of tenderness in a man who required three Portsmouth policemen to arrest him when sober. Bolt picked up the cat went through the after door of the Motor Room and yelled "Oi!" Berkshire looked aft, waved his hand, Bolt went back into the dope den and put the cat on his Jersey bed. Later on, the mess, or those not on watch had an informal meeting. Optimistically Stoker Wright said. "We can keep an eye on our little old pussy mate, and nobody will know he's in the boat." "We'll feed him up, butter his claws, he won't wander far. They didn't get this over to pussy, however, every time anybody opened the watertight door to the Motor Room, he moved forward to go out. Perhaps he had some idea that Berkshire when he waved, was desirous of a better acquaintance. Barton claimed to have kept cats as a boy, he said "He needs a lav, a cat-box, you know". "Oh yes", the Stokers agreed. "A cat consumes fuel in the way of comfort bacon, corned beef, lovely sardines, there must be some exhaust or by-products." "Cat box" said Fawkes the man with the enquiring mind. "What 'exactly does that consist of?" Barton was on a subject he knew about. "You take a shallow tray of wood, fill it half full of fine soil and a little sawdust, and put him on it." "Cats have got lots of savvy the take to it right away." Stoker Fawkes looked at Barton. "Where do you reckon to get fine soil out here in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea?" Barton laughed. "Don't be downhearted" he said, "We've got about six bags of saw-dust stowed away somewhere in case we get condenseritis and if I can't find it I can borrow a saw off the butcher and saw up some old boxes. Pussy was accommodated with his little tray of sawdust which whenever it was inspected contained only saw-dust. Like those around him, he was constipated.

It was on the second day out, we were going to attack the Battle Fleet on their way back and we were patrolling a line across which our Captain argued they must pass, he had pored over charts a long time to select it. He gave his opinion gratis to the First Lieut. "They won't go miles south and attempt to sneak in by cunning."

Second day out someone opened the watertight door, pussy romped for'd knowing nothing of the dangers of electricity he came up like a pantomime fairy via the starboard main motor brushes, commutator, and connecting cables right into the loving arms of one Bertram Single L.T.O. (They don't make 'em to Bert's design any more I'm told). POLTO was by his side talking about some electrical defect. "Pretty Pussy" said Bert stroking one end. "Gotcher, gotcher, gotcher", said POLTO caressing his tail. I have this on the separate authority of both POLTO and Bert.

They went on for a bit; after all, black cats don't leap out of motor armatures every day of the week. Then POLTO said, "There'll be trouble, Bert, there will be trouble, I haven't seen it, nip back to the Stoker's Mess it must be theirs." POLTO went for'd, cat and Bertram went aft, the pussy purring like a series motor racing on light load. Bert said "Stokers keep your lion in its cage he'll be in the Control Room next." Pussy was patted down, fed with milk, sat on his tray and had some of the sawdust brushed off his bottom with a boot brush, and continued to enjoy life.

Oh yes, he wandered again, he was kept for half a day in the Beamery Mess, a day divided between Chief P.O.s and P.Os. Stokers slunk along trying to entice him back, they say he grinned and would not leave the Electrical Artificer who tickled him under the chin besides giving him a big dollop of real butter. During the next forenoon as the Captain was pricking off some alternative approaches to the places where the Battleships might be, a soft paw overlapped the chart. Captains of submarines are not generally surprised by anything, if a Martian approached a submarine Captain with his usual line, "Take me to your leader", he'd say politely "Sorry old chap, I have a lot of charts to correct", or perhaps, "Sorry I don't have a leader I'm sort of independent what". And that would have to suit the Martian. Two minutes and about 3 seconds later, after a little strokey of the tail and the words "Titsy bitsy", Officer's Steward Regan swearing to this, he said, as if cats were running round in dozens in the Ward Room, "Regan get this cat some milk, and a little teeny drop of gin in it". No-one I think has ever suffered the hospitality of a British Ward Room without gin. Puss approved, all gone, the Captain thought a bit, he was not a hasty man. The great shindig was not until tomorrow, it was a bit cool, "Avery!" The assistant Ward Room hand came in saying throatily "Yes Sir." "Put the Ward Room chimney up, light a fire." "Aye Sir" said Avery. "Put the Ward Room Chimney up, light a fire." He hastened to obey picking up Nelson the other Ward Room Assistant on the way. A bit of knocking, unavoidable really, early Ward Room dinner, after dinner. Captain, deep arm chair, hacking jacket, cigar, cat on a folded blanket. Nelson nipped up and put his carpet slippers alongside. Pussy was gazing at the flames, from time to time the Captain stroked him. Boat blacked out up top.

One alarm, "Captain on the bridge", during which Avery and Nelson stroked pussy, only a Sardinian merchant vessel her name bobbed by some joker who could not spell but closed cosily with "Goodnight Sare." Captain came back, tomorrow the test. He thought, he stroked, at eleven the Captain's Steward lifted the cat from the Captain's lap and told him his bunk was turned down. "Ah, a busy day tomorrow" mused the Captain. He turned to Nelson who was nearby, "Take care of the cat". "Sir". "Yessir, aye, aye Sir, take care of the cat Sir!" As he passed Avery he said. "The lightning will strike tomorrow". In a few short days the cat had been stroked by sixty three persons. I think the cat was saying still "This is charming, a whole world peopled by cat lovers". In his little house at Molo Pieta with Clara it had not been like this. He slept soundly, even the squeaks of the rats in the bilges worried him not.

Next day much preparation, down galley funnel, down Ward Room funnel, wrap tight such loose metals as might give a tinkling sound when submerged and have the destroyers with their Asdic gear reporting "Hydrophone effect to starboard". The morn broke as morns do, on the periscope standard two young seamen with binoculars and good eyesight, fifteen knots, careful attention to air supply for for'd boiler. At half past twelve precisely Able Seaman Standen

reported "Two large ships green two oh". "Stand by to dive?" The oil fuel stopped to the sprayers, stokers beat out the back-flash with wet sacks, in the Motor Room Bert and I spat (figuratively) on our hands, this was it, a full salvo in the tubes, charged, depth set, igniters in. Collision head full of oil fuel, the test. Had the submarine a future, had our Captain a future?

I heard from Lemaire, Tel. what happened. Seemed the Captain was going to get down in good time, he judged the two big ships, would not deviate much. He had given the order "Half ahead group up, the funnels were down, ventilation shut off, top and bottom lids shut, the planes were just about to go hard a dive. Nichols the untidy came running into the Control Room from aft. He shouted, "Where's the cat?" Everyone looked round, quick thoughts, "He must be inside the boat." Captain looked round, "Pass the word, report if the cat is with you." The message went by Navy-Phone, voice pipe, shouting messenger. No answer.

No cat. "Slow both!" "Group down." "Slow both." the anxiety showed on the Captain's face, the Battleships were probably doing 20 knots, K.26 lay like a log in the water. The Captain shouted "Up you go Liddiatt, find that cat, if he's up top get him down here quickly." Liddiatt went through the lower lid out through the conning tower he raced along the upper casing aft, on number three gun asleep in the autumn sunshine was the cat. Two distant grey shapes were still mostly below the horizon. He swooped, he was going to have no chase around. The cat must have wondered at this first lapse of manners, he struggled a bit, but Liddiatt had passed for P.O. Tel and badly wanted to make it. He ran. Into the conning tower door, shut it properly, dropped down through the big brass lid of the conning tower. Now cats do not like being carried down a ladder, he scratched out at Liddiatt's face. Liddiatt tried to hold him and shut the dogs on the hatch at the same time, didn't work. The cat arrived at full speed by gravity. The Captain yelled "Dive, take her down Cox'n, full ahead both, group up, forty feet, thank God." The boat planes down like an old-time Harrods lift, the boat steadied at forty feet. Liddiatt dogged the bottom hatch and went into the Wireless Office to look in the mirror. A spare Stoker dropped off the H.P. Blowing panel and took the cat aft for a drink of milk. The boat became quiet, a few quiet orders, the minutes ticked away. Joe Blake reported "Tubes one to six ready Sir, bow caps open." "All torpedoes set to twelve feet". "No gyro angle Sir". The Captain went up and down with the H.P. periscope, there was a nice popple on the sea, the submarine was up-sun of the battlers; he exposed very little 'scope. Ah yes two ships in line ahead, it was not simple, but the well-used techniques. Eventually with everyone keyed up, "Fire one."..."Ker... ooom." "Fire two."..."Ker...oooom," "Fire three."..."Ker.... ooom," "Fire four." "Ker....oooom,"..."Fire five."..."Ker....oooom," "Fire six."..."Ker....oooom," "Sixty feet, Asdic Office report any noises. The boat steadied up at sixty feet, the Captain gave the order "Down both scopes". He banged his left fist into his right palm gently. The Asdic speaker went. "Gogug....gogug....gogug....gogug....gogug....gogug...." The voice of Watts came over the voice pipe. "Six crushing sounds, sir, believe collision heads on armour." "Very good, Watts." "Give me a range and then fall out."

The Captain turned to the First Lieutenant, "Number one, every ball a coconut." Then he called through the voice-pipe, "T.G.M. and Fore End men report in the Control Room." In a minute the three men responsible for the torpedoes lined up in the Control Room. "Petty Officer Blake, Good show," he shook Joe's hand which was still oily. "Herridge and Pearson, you too, damned good show, worth all the overtime eh?" "Yes Sir", "Thanks". We went ahead, the periscope ascended, we planed up. The two 'sunk' ships were going fast. We blew and surfaced, the boilers lit with a roar, as the funnels went up. Whalley wrote down the Captain's signal in order to get it off snappily by Aldis. "K.26 to Q.E. and MALAYA. Three hits claimed on MALAYA, three hits claimed on Q.E." It was a minute before Q.E. made back "Congratulations, hits confirmed, have you seen my Asdic screen?" The Captain said, "Whalley we must be generous in the "hour of victory", make back." "Regret no." "Captains of subs, have been known to be a little cocky after torpedoing the C. in C. He refrained from all that Goliath and David stuff. K.26 carried on picking up her own torpedoes the crushed heads told their tale "bang on". After a while all six were in the fore torpedo stowage the hatch shut, the boat steaming at fourteen knot for Malta.

Down below in the hot Motor Room Bud, Bert and Carter were doing half hour spells as the juice went back into the box. At dinner the Captain sent Avery for the cat. When Avery appeared he said, "What do cats like best?" Avery handed over the cat to the Captain and went to see Regan. "Mick, the Captain wants to know what cats like in the way of party food, you know, a treat." "Dat's difficult so it is, he's been living on corned beef and sardine and sausages since he's been on board, dere's nothin' I reckon to tickle his appetite....I don't know, well it's the Captain's shout.... I tell you what..." And I'll tell you what, they put that damned cat, as sure as my name's Nick Carter, on a white towel on the deck of the Wardroom with a Ward Room white plate and six dobs of caviar shaped like torpedoes, Regan shaped 'em with a wooden spatula, and diluted his Ideal milk in a wine glass with gin. That cat dined in the Ward Room and if that's not a record I'm a liar. We were back on the Friday, everybody in high spirits.

The dghaisa man and his grandson came out to put our wires on the buoy. Whilst we were racking up aft we could see a big woman on the shore waving. Eventually the dghaisa work was finished, Chico landed his grandfather who walked over to the big woman. Chico said, "iss Italian lady come for her cat Benito, she very plissed you bring him back." Barton brought him up the Stoker's hatch and handed him into the boat. The ERAs had got a piece of soft alloy disc and had with the end of a file roughly engraved it "For Service in Subs., six hits" it was hung round his skinny neck with a piece of mackerel line spliced properly by the second Cox'n. We watched the cat return to his mistress, one jump and he was in her arms. The Italians when happy always cry, we could see the big white handkerchief going strong, she was

happy. We turned away, out of a sense of delicacy. Old Stoker Trussler said seriously "That's what we want in this boat, a black cat permanent, sort of Ship's company", and there sixty three would have agreed with him. We decided he must have nipped up the Motor Room hatch to be where he was when Liddiatt caught him. I say this, if you have a skipper that almost throws away his last promotion chances rather than risk drowning a moggie with a name like Benito you are bloody lucky already and you don't need a black cat.

I have always thought that there was something wrong with the Universe, a lot of things could have been better done; perhaps the rush to get it all finished in six days was responsible. If I had been doing it I would have looked more closely at the pussy cat. I would have gifted him with speech and better-than-human understanding. Not speech like a mynah bird or a parrot or a budgerigar, but speech with understanding and love and all that goes with it, like compassion and comfort. What a splendid thing it would have been for Benito back again safe in the arms of his Clara to have told his story in his own words. Nuzzling her ample bosom, and you have my word for that also: He could say, "There I was in the sun asleep. I had been fed, I had drunk milk, nay nectar, there was something the Stokers called rum in the milk, and I was asleep not knowing this thing was one of those that went deep under the water. This Liddiatt who snatched me up, him and the Captain saved the life of Benito." "and I scratched his poor nose, this Liddiatt not the Captain." "You see, the Captain would not go under the water with me up top, though the ships he is to torpedo are getting nearer." "instead of saying, "No dinner for Benito", what does he do? "He has me dining at his table on a white towel, I admit I thought they were watering the milk, but it was some different sort of rum to the stuff the sailors had, just as nice, made me sleepy," "it was a lovely time for me Clara, there must be a lot to be said for a Sailor's life, you must try it someday." As I am vainly imagining now I think I could end up with a fancied answer by Clara, translated into Cockney English, "I'd bloody watch it!"

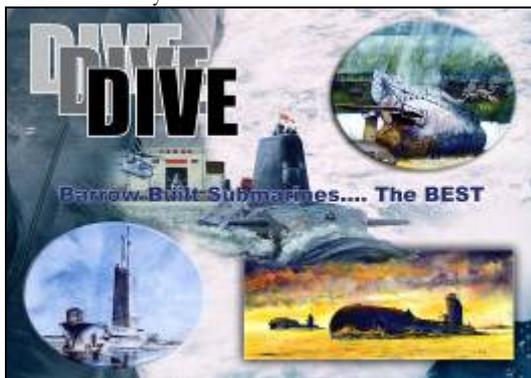
To be continued in January 2017

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## DIVE, DIVE, DIVE, BARROW BUILT SUBMARINES - THE BEST

**!!!!ONLY SIX COPIES LEFT!!!!**

The Submarine Heritage Centre (SHC) and the Submariners Association (SA) of Barrow in Furness commissioned a series of Paintings, by the noted Barrow-in-Furness based Marine Artist – Tom Murphy - of all Classes of Submarine built in the Barrow Shipyard over the last 120 years. The Barrow Shipyard has been involved with the design and built over 72% of all UK Submarines plus many Submarines for overseas Navies. This Paintings Series represents the development of the Submarine over that period and reflects how the Submarine evolved from the first basic vessel in the 1880's to the sophisticated Nuclear powered Submarine of the 21st Century.



This Book showcases the Paintings with supporting data on plates covering the forty-four Classes of Submarine built in Barrow together with a number of Submarines built for other countries. It also includes twelve 'Decade' paintings reflecting the products, other than the Submarine, produced by the Barrow Shipyard over that same period and a further ten plates of 'Miscellaneous' paintings of Ships, Submarines and topics related to Barrow in Furness and the Barrow Shipyard. The Book is a "Coffee Table" hard back product with the Painting

Plates on the RH pages with associated information on the LH pages.

The last six copies of the Book are still available, now at £15.00 per copy plus £5.00 P & P (UK rate only - Overseas postage rates on application). Cheques should be made out to 'SA Barrow'. In addition 'Limited Edition' prints are available of all the paintings in the Big Book at £45.00 each plus £3.95 P & P (UK).

To obtain your own copy of 'Dive, Dive, Dive – Barrow Built Submarines - the Best' and/or a 'Limited Edition' print contact Barrie Downer at [barrie@downer55.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:barrie@downer55.freeserve.co.uk)

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## REQUEST FOR HELP SUBMARINE COMMISSIONING CREW LISTS

Since asking for your help last month with copies of Submarine Commissioning Crew Lists to assist with an ongoing Project the response has been very good.

I have recently received:

ARTFUL (I) – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1966, ODIN - Rosyth 19<sup>th</sup> August 1966, OPOSSUM - Devonport 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1968, OPOSSUM - DOLPHIN 14<sup>th</sup> November 1981 & SPARTAN – Devonport 13<sup>th</sup> October 1988

I am still looking for First Commission Lists as follows:

**Diesel Boats:** ONYX, ORPHEUS, ORACLE, OTTER, ODIN, OTUS, OPOSSUM, OPPORTUNE, UNSEEN & UNICORN

**Nuclear Boats:** CHURCHILL, REVENGE, TRENCHANT, VIGILANT, ASTUTE & AMBUSH  
Additionally I would appreciate copies of any Crew Lists for subsequent Commissions of any 'O' Class, 'P' Class and any Nuclear Boat and for any Commission of any Diesel 'A', 'S' or 'T' Class Boat. Have a look through your records and 'Ditty Boxes' and see what you can

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

### **Helensburgh's Armed Forces community unite for Kidston Park Remembrance Bench**

HMNBC Wednesday, 7 December 2016

Family members of Service personnel have teamed-up with military charitable organisations to organise a poignant act of Remembrance at Helensburgh's Kidston Park.

On Tuesday, November 29, a Remembrance bench was unveiled featuring striking metalwork encapsulating the sacrifice our armed forces have made for our freedom.

The bench was funded by donations from forces charity SSAFA, the not-for-profit organisation 'We Remember Submariners', support from family members of Helensburgh's armed forces community and Argyll and Bute Council. Speaking at the official unveiling, Captain Craig Mearns, Captain of HMS Neptune, said: "A lot of time and effort has gone into arranging the design and installation of this Remembrance bench.

"It is important that we remember the sacrifices made by others on our behalf and raise the profile of the Armed Forces. It is also important that here in Helensburgh we develop the relationship between the Naval Base and the local community. This fantastic bench, placed in this great spot, is an ideal way to do all of this. On behalf of the Naval Base I would like to thank everyone who was involved."

It has taken some eighteen-months from the start of the project to the unveiling. Designed and manufactured by Kilmarnock firm David Ogilvie Engineering, the bench depicts silhouette images of soldiers, poppies and crosses. Situated near the water-edge, looking on to the Gareloch, the bench is in an ideal location.

"It's not only an excellent spot for those veterans who live nearby," explained SSAFA's Representative Martina Hill, "but it is also a location which Naval families sometimes come to watch boats returning home to HM Naval Base Clyde."

HM Naval Base Clyde's Warrant Officer David Wynne, who also volunteers for 'We Remember Submariners', continued: "The comments we have had have been fantastic. One veteran who was out for a walk just the other day happened upon the bench and was immediately struck by it. He said that he would be returning to the spot as a way of remembering those who had died.

"We would like to thank everyone who helped and supported us in this project," he said. "In particular we'd like to thank the charities, volunteers from armed forces families and Argyll and Bute Council who laid the concrete and fitted the bench for us."



**The Memorial Bench at Sunset**



## **Barrow Submariners Association**

### **Annual Christmas Party**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2016

Royal British Legion (7:30pm 'til Late)

**Cost £5 per person**

**(Ticket Only Entry)**

Live Music – Denis Horan

Disco

(Food is 'Bring a Plate')

Special Christmas Raffle

£100 Ticket Draw

Tickets on sale from:

**Alex Webb (839551)**

**(or Behind the Bar)**

**Adults Only**

