



# PERISCOPE VIEW

**Patron: Admiral Sir James Perowne KCVO KBE**  
**President: Commodore Jim Perks CB**

**The Newsletter of the Barrow-in Furness Branch of  
 The Submariners Association**

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August 2024



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## COVER PHOTO: A VANGUARD CLASS BOAT HAS RECENTLY CONDUCTED FIRINGS OF THE NEW & UPGRADED SPEARFISH MOD1 TORPERO

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*“Nothing in the world, nothing that you may think or dream of, or anyone may tell you, no arguments however specious, no appeals however seductive, must lead you to abandon that naval supremacy on which the life of our country depends.”*

**WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL**

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## EDITORIAL

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Hello Everybody,

Well here we are in August! The middle of the holiday season Branch Newsletter – halfway through the year already. The weather still can't make its mind up - a few nice days and then back to the rain again! July was a very quiet Month for the Branch so there is not a lot to report in this month's Newsletter – not a lot reported from the National Committee or from the Submarine Family either. But here is quite a lot going on in the Submarine world generally but, apart from the AUKUS and a bit of UK news it is mainly foreign Navy news.

Locally – for all those who use Michalson Road – you may have noticed that the big shed (the former ASTUTE Store) - next to Kings Gate is in the process of demolition as part of the continuing Shipyard redevelopment.. Looking over the other side of the Road you can see that the work on the new Wet Dock Quay is still progressing but it seems to be taking a long time!

There are more social events for you to attend/support in August and the rest of the year as detailed in the Social Secretary's report. I would encourage everyone to support Alex in all the Social events he arranges on your behalf.

I hope to see you all at the August Branch Meeting next week – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August – usual place and usual time. We will have visitors from the three charitable organisations we voted to support at a recent Branch Meeting. Representatives from Northwest Air Ambulance, Riding for the Disabled and St Mary's Hospice will be coming along so

we can present them with their donation cheques. Please make every effort to attend and support them - and as it is a special event please come along and support the Branch – ‘best bib and tucker’ please and ‘in the rig’ for those with SA Blazers & Ties. Hopefully the Press will be in attendance and there will be some positive publicity for the Branch both locally and via the National and TSF Websites. You might even get your photo in the Press!

**Best Regards,  
Barrie**

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## SECRETARY’S REPORT - JULY 2024

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### **Hello Everyone**

Agenda for Branch Meeting of the Barrow in Furness Branch, Submariners Association on Tuesday 6th August 2024 at 1930 at the Royal British Legion

1. Chairman’s welcome
  2. New Members:
  3. Special visitors from Riding for Disabled, St Mary’s Hospice and Northwest Air Ambulance.
  4. Apologies: Members: Martyn Hillier, Ben Britten, Dave Barlow, Ken Brumby, Bob Sherriff, R McMorris.  
Associate Members: Sheila Sherriff, Sally Hambling,
  6. Crossed the Bar reported since the issue of the July 2024 Newsletter
  7. Minutes of July 2024 meeting
  8. Matter arising from the July Branch Meeting
  9. Secretary Report: Les Hambling  
Social Secretary’s Report. Alex Webb
- 10 mins Stand Easy.
10. Treasurer’s Report: Richard Cambridge
  12. Website Managers Report: Nobby Clark
  13. Newsletter Editor’s Report: Barrie Downer
  14. Welfare & Sick Call:
  15. AOB:
- Date of Next Branch Meeting - Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 1930.
18. Up Spirits & Loyal Toast:

**Regards,  
Les Hambling,  
Barrow Branch Secretary**

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## SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT - JULY 2024

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### **Hi Everybody**

July saw me and the family away on holibobs and our annual event for charity; walked/jogged up Mount Vesuvius in memory of our son Jack. If you haven’t donated and still would like to then the web page is still active and we will (for the last time) be bringing a paper sponsorship form to the August meeting. Our thanks go to all who have supported us in this charity event xx

Well the only thing I had planned for July was the Cartmel run. Normally a very well supported and enjoyable day. Unfortunately, due to numbers, the coach wasn’t viable so had to be cancelled. I am very sorry for this and I can’t remember the last time I cancelled an event due to lack of support. Maybe a sign of the times. But I had to admit that although the coach had to be cancelled for financial reasons the racecourse were being a bit cute with putting their prices up to pay for a DJ no one wanted to see – Ho hum. I will try and run this event again but pick a time when it is just the racing.

### **SOCIALS**

We have nothing for August, due to the holiday season.

But will get back on it in Septembers with our DTS to the West Shore Club on Walney - Sat 14th September - £5 for pie and peas and bring loads of dosh for the scratch cards. Kick off will be at 2pm. If you are intending to come please give me your name and some dosh for catering purposes.

The Social Program is out and the next portion of it appended below; please remember that numbers for all the events are extremely limited (has ha) so get your names down early to avoid disappointment.

The Members Draw was not won in June so stands at £40 for the August meeting.

There are two changes to the Social Program. Our Morecambe friends can’t make the October meeting so we have rescheduled this for the September meeting – please attend if you can.

The Morecambe boys Trafalgar Night Dinner is on Sat 19th Oct - you will have seen the email, so if you would like to attend then follow the instructions contained within.

## THE SOCIAL PROGRAMME

Saturday August 24 <sup>th</sup>	Edinburgh Tattoo, Edinburgh Castle
Saturday September 14 <sup>th</sup>	DTS West Shore Club
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Battle of Britain Parade, Barrow
Weekend 27 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Gibraltar
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Morecambe Branch Trafalgar Night Dinner
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Sea Cadets Trafalgar Ball, Fairfield Hall
Weekend 8 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Parades, Barrow
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas Party RBL Holker Street

**Yours Aye**  
**Alex**

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### AUGUST BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting	Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> Aug
Committee Meeting	As Required

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### SEPTEMBER BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting	Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep
Committee Meeting	As Required

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### OCTOBER BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting	Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct
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### AUGUST BRANCH BIRTHDAYS

R. (Roger) McMorris	01/08/1948
W. (William) McLaughlin	03/08/1946
R.H. (Robert) Hagen	10/08/1944
A. (Alan) Webb	10/08/1952
G. (Whisky) Walker	11/08/1948
M. (Margaret) Downer(A)	12/08/1946
D. (Doris) Hearn (A)	14/08/1954
D.B. (Dave) Harwood	21/08/1951
G. (Gloria) Shipley (A)	21/08/1940
T Jones	23/08/1968
D. (Dave) Sales	29/08/1953
C (Cliffe) Shipton	30/08/1949

**Happy Birthday All!!**

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### SUBMARINE COMMISSIONING CREW LISTS

Commissioning, De-commissioning and Re-dedication Crew Lists – are still wanted, thank you very much. This is for an ongoing project to compile a Chronological Record of Submariners. If you don't have any Crew Lists and you wish to be added to the Record you can always send me your individual details - where and when joined boats, rank or rate, boats served in - with dates if known – Official Numbers are lays helpful as well.

I am still looking for 'First Commission' Crew Lists as follows: PORPOISE, GRAMPUS, CACHALOT, WALRUS, OBERON, ONYX, ORPHEUS, ODIN, OTUS, UNICORN, AUDACIOUS and ANSON. Also looking for copies of Crew Lists for subsequent Commissions of any 'O' Class, 'P' Class or Nuclear Boat – SSN & SSBN. Crew Lists for any Commissioning or Decommissioning of any Diesel 'A,' 'S' or 'T' Class Boat refitting in Home Dockyards or in Malta, Singapore or Sydney are also required. Have a look through your records and 'Ditty Boxes' and see what you can find. You can contact me by E Mail, Snail Mail or Telephone. Thanks, Barrie Downer

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### **REMEMBERING FORMER BARROW BRANCH MEMBERS – AUGUST**

John Lothian	1968
Reginald Potter	1969
William Pope	1973
C H Green	1976
John Ogden	1977
Jerry Jackson	1994
Bob Buchanan	1994
Peter Braithwaite	2003
Hugh Anderson	2004
David Tull	2006
Roger Fry	2015
Michael Davenport	2017
Frank Bowen	2018

David Craven 2020  
Cedric Madin 2021

## **RESURGAM**

### **NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Do you have a story to tell or have information you feel should appear in the Newsletter - then ring Barrie Downer on 01229 820963 or, if you wish to send me an article, my Postal Address is The Firs, Dundalk Street, Barrow Island, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA14 2RZ. You may also send your contribution by e-mail to me on [frozenorth55@gmail.com](mailto:frozenorth55@gmail.com). Come on – every Submariner has a story to tell – some more than one! Let's see yours in print!

Constructive suggestions about the Newsletter are also very welcome. The Newsletter will be published in the last week of each month i.e., the last week in March 2024 for the April 2024 Issue. Please ensure you have any information with me by the 15th of the month to ensure

its inclusion in the next issue. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition – keep them stories coming!

### **ONLINE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE UPDATE** **OBOR SITREP**

11th July 2024

I just thought your Members might like to know that we now have stories for 13.8% of the 5,900 (approx) people in OBOR, with thanks to all editors and particularly to Barrie for supplying material.

Last week we reached 50% of WWII HMS TRIUMPH people storied, in time for their Memorial event. Disappointingly, we haven't had any Visitor Comment on them yet. I am now pleased to say that all 40 of the people on the Kylesku 12th Submarine Flotilla (X-Craft and Charioteer) Memorial have stories on the OBOR.

Peter Jeanneret

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### **Fort Blockhouse disposal date reaffirmed after long delays**

Portsmouth Evening News

By Freddie Webb

30th Jul 2024

The Ministry of Defence has given a firm date for when a military fortification will be disposed of - which could see it be transformed into an economic asset for Gosport. Fort Blockhouse 1 is due to be disposed of in 2025, according to the MoD's Defence Estate Optimisation (DEO) Portfolio. The government department said on its website that any site which is "no longer required for military use" will be dealt with. "Disposing of these sites create exciting opportunities for alternative use, resulting in regeneration, business growth and job creation within the local area," they added. Some units across the armed forces are moving to more purpose built facilities.

The MoD have issued a firm date of disposal for Fort Blockhouse. Plans wish to use the site as a mixed use development to boost the economy in Gosport, but those have been delayed for several years. The MoD have issued a firm date of disposal for Fort Blockhouse. Plans wish to use the site as a mixed use development to boost the economy in Gosport, but those have been delayed for several years. Fort Blockhouse, built in 1431, is thought to be the UK's oldest fortification. Plans for it to be transformed into a "mixed-use development" have been mooted for years. The Better Defence Estates plan set out the release of the land in 2016, with the original deadline for the transformation of the site being in 2020. Yet, it has stood untouched for eight years.

Dame Caroline Dinenage, Gosport MP, has been campaigning for the site to be redeveloped, raising the issue most recently with the then-Defence Procurement Minister, James Cartlidge, in March. She told The News: "The 2025 date for disposal is welcome but as ever, the devil will be in the detail. "Redevelopment at the site has clearly proven challenging, but Fort Blockhouse remains an important component of an economic vision that I have had over many years as MP for the area, which involves utilising our prime heritage sites for creating jobs and attracting investment."

Dame Caroline Dinenage, Conservative MP for Gosport, welcomed the disposal date for Fort Blockhouse but said the "devil will be in the detail". She was re-elected on July 4, 2024. She welcomed the disposal date for Fort Blockhouse but said the "devil will be in the detail". She was re-elected on July 4, 2024. The aim is for the site to be used to regenerate Gosport - bringing more jobs and homes to the area. Council leader Peter Chegywn previously said he would like to see "a mix of residential properties along with marine employment", with development having to be compatible with the historic buildings on site. Ms Dinenage previously said the site was "rotting at the taxpayer's expense". The Conservative politician is hoping for faster progress on the regeneration scheme. "I do hope to see Fort Blockhouse turned into something useful, as the current situation doesn't represent good value for money for my constituents," she added. "The MoD need to either use it or lose it. I will continue to lobby for the site's redevelopment, holding the Government to account on the latest disposal date. The benefits of this site have always been clear and are set out in the 2019 Gosport Infrastructure Investment Plan."

Defence Estate Optimisation has completed, or in construction of, 18 projects to date. More than 1,450 hectares of surplus defence land at 26 sites has been released. The MoD said this has generated around £250m in net disposal receipts and secured a 28 per cent saving in running cost. A spokeswoman for the Department said: "We continue to work with the local authorities and interested stakeholders over how Fort Blockhouse 1 can be sold for meaningful future use." Fort Blockhouse currently contains 33 Military Field Hospital, under the 2nd Medical Brigade. It also houses a branch of the National Coastwatch Institution, whose members act as lookouts over Portsmouth Harbour.



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## **SUBMARINE & SUBMARINER LOSSES OF WWII - AUGUST 1944**

No Submarines were lost in August 1944, but two submariners are reported to have died. They were:

One Member of the crew of Submarine **HMS SCEPTRE** who is reported to have died on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1944. He was:  
**Able Seaman George Dunkey O/N P/JX 394427**



George Dunkey was accidentally lost overboard and was presumed to have drowned whilst HMS SCEPTRE was at Loch Cairnbawn in Western Scotland. George Dunkey was born in Wednesbury, Staffordshire on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1924 and he was the son of Mr. F Dunkey and Mrs. Matilda E Dunkey. George, who was trained as a lathe operator, joined the Royal Navy at HMS GLENDOWER on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1942. It is not known when he joined submarines. It is likely that SCEPTRE was at Loch Cairnbawn (Port HHZ) for training in towing X-Craft when the accident occurred. George Dunkey of 54, Ashmore Lake, Short Heath Willenshall (who was not recovered) is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval War Memorial on Panel No 82 Column No1.

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One Chief Petty Officer serving at **HMS DOLPHIN** is reported to have died on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1944. He was:  
**Chief Yeoman of Signals George Henry Pusey O/N 214121**

George Pusey was born in Haggerston in London on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1885, and he was the son of Henry and Mary Ann Pusey. Fifty-nine-year-old George Pusey died in the Royal Naval Hospital at Haslar from pneumonia and Paget's Disease. He is buried in the Royal Naval Cemetery at Clayhall in Gosport in Plot E 66 15.

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### **3<sup>rd</sup> HMS UPHOLDER REUNION - MALTA 2024**

(Report from Steve May. Barrow Branch)

"Following a couple of years in the planning the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual UPHOLDER Reunion was held from 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024 in Sliema, Malta. Organised by Barney Naylor and assisted by Dominic Taylor who, apart from serving on UPHOLDER, now resides in Malta.



Malta was chosen to honour and remember the first UPHOLDER under the Command of Lt Cdr Malcolm Wanklyn VC DSO based out of Malta during World War II and was the most successful submarine of the War but, unfortunately, was 'lost with all hands' in 1942 on the 25th Patrol which should have been the last Patrol before the boat went to refit.

Many of those attending the reunion weekend arrived early and stayed later to make a Holiday out of the trip as well as the reunion weekend but with partner's over 30 people made the journey to Malta.

The Friday afternoon was a Drinks Reception with snacks at the Marina Bay Bistro which gave everyone the opportunity to catch up with old shipmates and "swing the lamp" and to meet Professor Tim Gambin who apart from being a Maritime Archaeologist is very supported of Submariners being an expert regarding submarines based in Malta during the war and was to give us a presentation on the Saturday.

Saturday morning saw everyone muster at St Elmo's Fort, with free access kindly arranged for those attending the reunion by Professor Tim Gambin, where 2 wreaths were laid at the memorial to HMS URGE, (there is not as yet a memorial for HMS UPHOLDER) one by our own Dominic Taylor and the second by the American Naval Attaché to Malta Lt Cdr Steven Raley followed by Steve May having the honour to recite the exhortation, followed by 2 minutes silence and the Kohima Epitaph.

The formal remembrance at St Elmo's Fort was followed by an extremely interesting presentation by Professor Tim Gambin about HMS URGE and finding the wreck, HMS OLYMPUS and of course HMS UPHOLDER (which is still to be found) and the presentation included a virtual reality dive onto the submarine wrecks which was filmed during the dives made by Tim Gambin and his team. The virtual reality dive was amazing as was the whole presentation.

Following the presentation the group took a walk to St Pauls Cathedral (the one in Malta) and everyone could see the plaques to a number a Naval Vessels including HMS URGE before a short walk to the British Legion where everyone remembered those lost on HMS UPHOLDER by the reading out of the list of names followed by 2 minutes silence and the names of those from the most recent UPHOLDER crew and DTO from the build who have Crossed the Bar were read out and a toast to "Absent Friends" was made.

The evening saw a trip to "The Pub" where Oliver Reed took his last drink and breath whilst drinking with crewmembers of HMS Cumberland.

Sunday a coach was arranged to take everyone to Kalkara Naval Cemetery where Steve May laid a wreath on behalf of "We Remember Submariners" on the grave of the 6 Sailors whose were the only bodies recovered from HMS OLYMPUS during World War II which was followed by Alex Webb having the honour to recite the exhortation, followed by 2 minutes silence and the Kohima Epitaph. This was followed by Charles Robinson reading the moving poem "In Waters Deep" by Eileen Mahoney.

Following the remembrance there was some free time to look around the cemetery which is well maintained under the control of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission before the coach took everyone into Valetta for people to do as they wish.

The Monday saw the first of those returning to the UK depart with others going over the following days.

So what next? Professor Tim Gambin is very keen to add memorials at St Elmo's Fort to HMS UPHOLDER and HMS OLYMPUS if local authorities give approval and there is space for 2 further memorials to the left of HMS Urge memorial and one to the right with the intention of having HMS UPHOLDER next to HMS URGE to the left then HMS OLYMPUS to the left of UPHOLDER. If this can become a reality we hope to be able to hold a future reunion in Malta to coincide with the unveiling of the new Memorial.

Link below is from the US Embassy Website showing the American Naval Attaché in Malta, Lt Cdr Steven Raley, laying a wreath at the memorial to HMS URGE: U.S. Embassy Malta on X: "U.S. Embassy Naval Attaché, LCDR Steven Raley, was honored to lay a wreath at the HMS URGE Memorial at Fort St. Elmo as part of the HMS UPHOLDER crew reunion. The crew paid respects to the HMS URGE, which sank off the shore of Malta during WWII.

Next year's UPHOLDER Reunion will take place in Falmouth, 4th to 7th July 2025. Thanks to Barney Naylor for his hard work each year organising the reunions and ensuring everything happens!!!!"

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### **Australian Navy nuclear submarine engineers complete training with Royal Navy**

The Royal Navy has helped lay the foundation for its Australian ally to acquire a nuclear-powered submarine capability, including through the country's first UK-trained nuclear submarine engineers. Three Royal Australian Navy officers graduated alongside their British counterparts after nine intensive months of training at HMS SULTAN in Gosport. Lieutenant Commander James, Lieutenant Isabella and Lieutenant Steve will now go on to serve in Astute-class submarines side-by-side with Royal Navy crews, adding practical experience to all they have learned on the Nuclear Operator Course. Their success marks a significant milestone in developing the skilled workforce to operate Australia's future nuclear-powered submarine capability. The three officers are part of a pioneering cohort who will be among the first to operate Australia's future conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines, having gained education, experience and training in both UK and US shipyards, facilities and warships.

Passing out, they were watched by Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, the Chief of the Royal Australian Navy – and a submariner – and Vice Admiral Jonathan Mead, Director General of the Australian Submarine Agency, while the Royal

Navy's Second Sea Lord Vice Admiral Martin Connell took the salute. Vice Admiral Hammond praised the "exceptional dedication" of the trailblazing trio of officers for their success – and the Royal Navy for the "world-class training" it has provided. He continued: "This demonstrates the exceptional skillset and knowledge of our people undertaking this unique training from the Royal Navy – a long-standing partner and friend to the Royal Australian Navy. "The graduation marks another significant step forward for the Royal Australian Navy's ability to operate, maintain and support Australia's future nuclear-powered submarine capability."

As the first nuclear engineers to go through the UK training program in their navy's history, the Australian trio have been under the spotlight, with regular visits from senior officers to check on their progress. "It's been great that they've continually shown interest in what we're doing," said 29-year-old Lieutenant Steve. "I was a weapons engineer, but nuclear engineering is a completely different ballpark. I wanted a challenge, something interesting. It's been very challenging, but also fascinating and much more interesting than conventional engineering." At 33, Lieutenant Commander James is an experienced submarine and marine engineer. "I was doing staff work, but it could be a bit mundane, so when the advert went out for nuclear engineers, I volunteered – I wanted to keep myself busy and active. And it's been very worthwhile." He will be assigned to the Royal Navy's newest hunter-killer submarine, HMS AGAMEMNON, nearing completion in Barrow.



"The experience of bringing her out of construction, going through trials and training will be hugely important down the line for our programme," Lieutenant Commander James added. He and his fellow 16 students have undergone six months of academic training learning how a nuclear reactor works and how to control it, covering diverse, complex subjects including nuclear physics, metallurgy, advanced mathematics, thermodynamics and nuclear safety management. That's followed by three months of practice: learning the inner workings of nuclear systems and control room simulators to correctly respond to possible incidents and emergencies. Instructor Lieutenant Joe Roberts said the course was one of the most demanding in the Navy – students frequently drop out.

"It's a course which demands the best and the brightest – and the Australians have sent them, three outstanding students who will go far," he continued. "It's been something of an honour because these are the AUKUS pioneers. They will go on to lead their country's future nuclear submarine programme." Lieutenant Kris Waldram, aged 40, from Cornwall, was one of the 14 Royal Navy students who successfully completed the course alongside the Australian trailblazers. "We have helped each other through the course. A submarine is regarded as being more complex than the Space Shuttle, so there's an incredible amount of information to grasp," he said. "I've been able to share my experience of my 23 years on nuclear submarines, the Australians helped with maths and the academic side of things when necessary. I think we've all benefitted from being on the same course. "The banter has been brilliant throughout – we're very much on a similar wavelength – finishing with an Australian-themed end-of-course dinner, and the room filled with inflatable kangaroos." Lieutenant Steve added: "I think what's been most surprising has been the parallels with the Brits – you can just jump in there, get started. Yes, we take the mickey and there's banter, but at the end of the day we're all best mates."

Their success marks a significant milestone in developing the skilled workforce needed to operate Australia's future conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine capability being developed under the AUKUS partnership - a topic which was high on the agenda during the Prime Minister's first conversation with his counterpart, Anthony Albanese over his inaugural weekend in office.

The leaders also discussed key challenges facing the region, including strategic competition, climate change and agreed to build on the already strong AUKUS partnership between the UK, Australia and the US. It's been something of an honour because these are the AUKUS pioneers. They will go on to lead their country's future nuclear submarine programme.

Lieutenant Joe Roberts



## **UK Working with Sheffield Forgemasters to Produce Gun Barrels for Ukraine**

The UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) has announced a partnership with Sheffield Forgemasters to expand the country's ability to produce forgings for gun barrels. The initiative will help maintain the flow of vital equipment pouring into Ukraine, such as L119 Light Guns and the AS-90 self-propelled howitzer, the MoD said. It will also help the Ukrainian Armed Forces repair their battle-damaged equipment as quickly as possible.

**AS-90 Gun Barrels for Ukraine.** A total of 32 AS-90 gun barrels were part of a defence aid package London announced earlier this month for Ukraine. It also included 10 AS-90s, 90 anti-armour Brimstone missiles, and a quarter of a million rounds of 50-caliber ammunition. "The MoD has agreed to regenerate the UK's ability to produce forgings for gun barrels, working in partnership with Sheffield Forgemasters, supporting the repair and overhaul of Ukrainian vehicles. This is the first step towards renewing UK sovereign barrel production which has been developing for 20 years," the agency added.

**Sheffield Forgemasters** which was nationalized in 2021, the Sheffield Forgemasters is fully owned by the MoD. It produces large bespoke steel castings and forgings and operates two forging presses exerting a pressure of 4,500 tons and 10,000 tons. The Company is probably best known to submariners for its production of large castings in support of the ASTUTE and DREADNOUGHT submarine programmes. In March 2022, the South Yorkshire-based company ended its supply contract with Russian natural gas supplier Gazprom following the invasion of Ukraine. "The government has already pledged to step up support, confirming 3 billion pounds (\$3.58 billion) a year to help Ukraine and a new package of ammunition, anti-armour missiles and artillery guns," Defence Secretary John Healey said after meeting Ukraine's president. "Meeting with industry leaders, I emphasized that the Government will continue to work in partnership with industry and the need to boost industrial production of vital military kit for both Ukraine and our own Armed Forces."

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## **ROYAL NAVY TRAINING FACILITY MARKS MAJOR MILESTONE**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024

### **SMERAS 5000**

The Royal Navy's Submarine Escape, Rescue, Abandonment, Survival Training Facility (SMERAS TF) recently welcomed the 5000th Student since opening its doors in 2021. The state-of-the-art facility was officially opened by the Commodore in Chief Submarines, His Royal Highness Prince William on the 29th of June 2021, and since then has continually trained new and experienced submariners and civilian contractors, in the skills and techniques of surface abandonment, rescue by submersible and tower escape from submarines. This significant milestone was marked with a visit from Captain Justin Codd, Captain Submarine Training, who presented a certificate to Warrant Officer 1(WO1), Ian Brown, one of the trainers who delivered the course to the 5000th student. Captain Codd said: "SMERAS is a world class training environment, which is at the forefront of training and qualifying all our submariners. Achieving the training milestone of over five thousand students is testament to the hard work and experience of the instructors."

The two-day training for Royal Navy Submariners, and one day for Civilian and non-Royal Navy students is a fully immersive training experience, putting the student's survival skills they have learnt to the test, accumulating with an assessment in the Environmental Tank or as it has been called many times before the 'Storm in a building'!

WO1 Ian Brown, or Buster, as he is best known, is one of the seventeen highly skilled instructors at SMERAS. Buster was delighted to receive the certificate to mark this important milestone. "I am proud to be part of the SMERAS team which is an example of how the Royal Navy has modernised its training capabilities to deliver to the submariners of today and to keep delivering well into the future for the submariners of tomorrow." said Buster. Submariners are trained to the highest standards to help keep the nation safe. Some of the submariners trained at SMERAS are joining the thousands of people working across the nation day in day out to deliver the Continuous at Sea Deterrent as part of our national endeavour. As the newest training facility in the Royal Navy, SMERAS has state-of-the-art facilities which never fail to impress. For most students, the Environmental Tank is the highlight of the course with the SMERAS staff able input various Sea State conditions, with wind, rain even thunder and lightning – you could say it's just a normal day in Faslane.



**Captain Justin Codd presents the certificate for the 5000th Student trained at SMERAS.**

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

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### **Plans submitted for over six hundred new accommodation units at HM Naval Base, Clyde**

Andrew Galloway, Local Democracy Reporting Service  
25th July 2024

Plans have been revealed for 639 new accommodation units for military personnel at Faslane Naval Base. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has submitted an application for planning permission to Argyll and Bute Council for the accommodation. The units would be built on a site of former buildings (the 1960s Officers' Wardroom) which have been demolished. A decision on the proposal is expected from the council's planning officers by late November, and the public can now view the plans and submit feedback.

A design and access statement said: "The proposals also include associated service infrastructure and engineering works that involve ground reprofiling, culvert diversion for the existing watercourse, drainage works, new road and landscaping. "The proposed buildings follow the MoD standardised designs and are set to four story in height to balance the residential scale of the development for users and the visual impact of the development externally. "The ground reprofiled platforms allow landscaped interest at ground level and help break the building rooflines and massing when viewed from afar.

"Demolition, ground reprofiling and security requirements have necessitated removal of existing trees. Informed through the preliminary environmental assessment, landscape design will seek to mitigate this loss and provide an element of biodiversity net gain where practicable." A planning statement by agents Zander Planning Ltd, also submitted as part of the application, added: "The proposed development involves developing the site extending to 1.8 hectares for the erection of single living accommodation (SLA) units to accommodate 639 military personnel and associated access and engineering/infrastructure works to replace the previous SLA units on the site. "The previous SLA units were not fit for purpose and were uninhabitable given their age, condition and lack of facilities (no hot water or heating). The buildings have now been demolished.

"Of the circa 600 bedspaces being constructed approximately half will be used by personnel already on the Base that have been temporarily rehoused within the Base as a result of the demolition works. "The circa 300 bed spaces that are in addition to the bed spaces previously on site are for trainees that will be based at Faslane to undergo training and learning. "The proposed development seeks to redevelop the site to enhance the quality of the interior space to occupants by providing improved living standards through better daylighting and space standards."

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### **Updated Spearfish MoD 1 Torpedo tested by Barrow-built Submarine**

1st August 2024

By Daniel Pye@danjpyeReporter

A Barrow-built Vanguard-class submarine has trialled the next generation of Spearfish weapons for the first time. The submarine conducted three days of Sea Acceptance Testing with the new weapons system off the coast of Scotland. It is the first time the next-generation Spearfish has been tested on a Vanguard-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine and means the boats are now able to meet the latest threats when at sea, according to the Royal Navy.

The trials involved the Spearfish engaging surface and submerged targets, enabling the boat's crew to operate the weapon, testing the ability to fire from the ballistic missile submarine's combat system and ensuring command and control over the weapon. It means both the Royal Navy's Astute-class and Vanguard-class submarines have completed the testing. The

service has been using Spearfish for nearly 30 years, which is capable of destroying frigates, destroyers, large warships and hostile submarines.



This modernised and improved variant – known as Spearfish Mod 1 – features a new warhead, a safer fuel system, a smarter electronic ‘brain’ and a fibre-optic guidance link with its parent submarine to improve its accuracy and lethality, according to the navy. The trials assessed how well the new torpedo integrated with the combat system of an operational submarine. Commodore Chris Goodsell, who managed the programme, said: “These firings continue to be a major step in ensuring the Royal Navy’s Spearfish torpedoes remain ready to face the latest threats, with cutting edge technology at the forefront of the weapon’s success. “I would like to thank the teams from across Navy Command, the Submarine Delivery Agency, DE&S and our industry partners who continue to commit time and effort to delivering this vital capability.” Work continues in modifying existing Spearfish Torpedo stocks into the improved Mod 1 version for entry into operational service onboard all Royal Navy submarines by 2025.

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### **AUKUS Navy Chiefs strengthen ties during first trilateral visit to HMAS STIRLING**

Naval News Staff 23 Jul 2024

Australian Department of Defence press release

The Chiefs of Navy for Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States have strengthened their naval ties today, during a visit to HMAS STIRLING in Western Australia. Australia’s Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond AO, RAN, hosted his international counterparts, the US Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Lisa Franchetti, and the UK First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Ben Key KCB CBE ADC, ahead of the Indian Ocean Defence and Security 2024 Conference in Perth this week.

The visit is the first time Admiral Franchetti and Admiral Key have visited HMAS Stirling, which will play a role in Australia’s future fleet of conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines.

The three chiefs received a tour of the base’s facilities, followed by a meet-and-greet with Australian submariners on-board a COLLINS Class submarine.

They also signed a Statement of Intent for Lethality, which documents the three navies collective commitment to the enhanced lethality of their surface combatant, and submarine fleets.

The visit finished with a showcase of the Royal Australian Navy’s most contemporary and cutting-edge autonomous systems capabilities. “Today my counterparts and I reaffirmed our philosophy of putting our partnership into action and continue to build on the historic friendship between our navies. Our navies operate on shared behaviours, shared values, and a shared commitment to the success and security of the Indo-Pacific region. Working together is how we get the best outcomes for our navies and nations, through personnel exchange programs and operational interchangeability at sea. Only this month we had our first Royal Australian Navy officers graduating from the Royal Navy’s Nuclear Reactor Course. This year our technicians have been training and learning unique skills with the US Navy in Guam and embedded on-board the US Submarine Tender, USS Emory S Land (AS 39).”

*Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, Chief of the Royal Australian Navy*

“AUKUS is a once in a generation opportunity to bring together the exceptional capabilities of Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. We will continue to build on our relationship, strengths, and interoperability, while at the same time uplifting the industrial bases of our three countries. We will bring to bear the innovative spirit of our three nations while significantly bolstering our posture in the Indo-Pacific, contributing to security and stability, and maintaining the rules-based international order in this critical region and around the globe.”

*Admiral Franchetti, US Navy’s Chief of Naval Operations*



**Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy, Admiral Lisa Franchetti on the gangway of HMAS Dechaineux at HMAS Stirling, Western Australia.**



**Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AO, RAN, with Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy, Admiral Lisa Franchetti and First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, Royal Navy, Admiral Sir Ben Key, KCB, CBE, ADC, signing the Lethality Statement of Intent at Sir James Stirling Mess, HMAS Stirling in Western Australia. (Royal Australian Navy photo)**

“Building on longstanding, deep-rooted relationships, and reflecting the unique level of trust and cooperation between our countries, we celebrate the success of AUKUS thus far and look forward to continuing the collective delivery on our commitment. AUKUS is a strategically important capability collaboration, allowing us to pool expertise to accelerate the development of cutting-edge defence capabilities in a way that we could not do alone. Alongside the USN, the RN is committed to ensuring the RAN can build on its proven experience of operating conventional powered submarines to be nuclear capable as well. We have recently welcomed RAN personnel onto our nuclear courses and to serve in our Astute class submarines and we look forward to sharing the next generation of SSNs in a collaborative build programme which will shape our partnership for many decades to come.”

*Admiral Ben Key, UK Royal Navy’s First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff*

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### **Pacific nations urge Japan to clean up WWII shipwrecks**

#### **Oil leaks put coral reefs, mangroves and fisheries at risk, researcher warns**

Major Projects Foundation conducts fieldwork on sunken vessels in Chuuk Lagoon in the Federated States of Micronesia in May. (Major Projects Foundation)

SOPHIE MAK, Nikkei staff writer

July 22, 2024

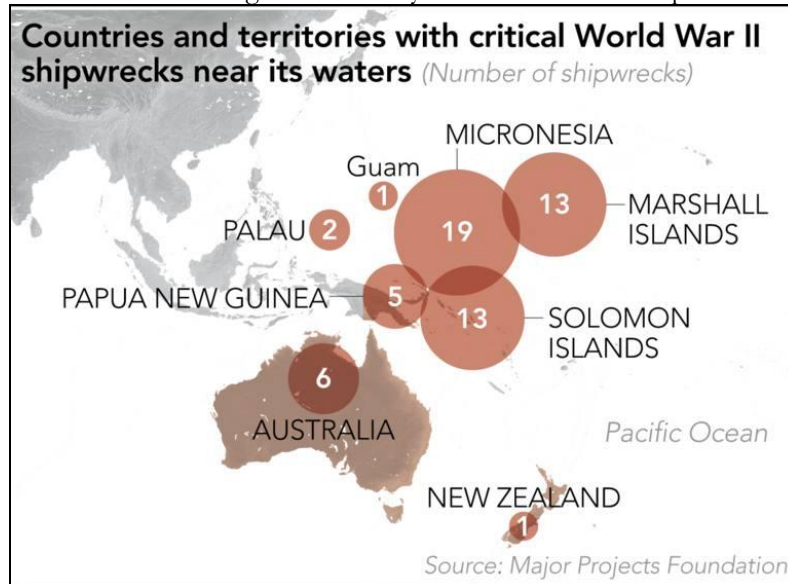
Ten years ago, Paul Adams was scuba diving among World War II shipwrecks in a popular tourist spot in the Federated States of Micronesia when he found black, oily bubbles rising from the wrecks. He later learned that the bubbles were oil leaks from the corroding fuel tanks of sunken vessels. Lying on the seabed in the Pacific Ocean are oil tankers, fighter aircraft and warships from Japan and Allied powers that went down as a result of ferocious battles 80 years ago.

Experts estimate there are more than 3,000 wrecked vessels scattered across the Pacific Ocean, with around 1,000 of those in waters in the Melanesian and Micronesian regions, near island nations such as the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia. The issue was highlighted at the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 10) held last week in Tokyo. The joint action plan announced Thursday stated that Japan and Pacific island nations will cooperate to deal with "oil leakage from shipwrecked Japanese vessels" as part of a broader effort to promote future-oriented relations



Experts estimate there are more than 3,000 sunken ships scattered across the Pacific Ocean, with around 1,000 in waters in the Melanesian and Micronesian regions. (Major Projects Foundation)

Chuuk Lagoon in the Federated States of Micronesia, where Adams dived, is often referred to as the world's biggest ship graveyard. A major Imperial Japanese Navy base during the war, it was targeted by American forces, which sank hundreds of Japanese warships, merchant ships and aircraft in three days in 1944. Further south, Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands also saw bitter fighting between Japanese and U.S troops. Hundreds of Japanese and Allied ships and aircraft came to rest on the sea floor near Guadalcanal, more commonly known as Iron Bottom Sound. Years of decay have caused some of the wrecks' fuel tanks and hulls to rupture, spilling thousands of tonnes of oil and fuel into the sea. This poses a significant environmental threat and potentially devastates Pacific island communities' livelihoods, which are heavily dependent on fishing and tourism. Oil released from these hulks can kill coral reefs and suffocate mangroves, causing the depletion of fish breeding grounds and feedstocks. Mark Brown, chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, the region's main intergovernmental organization, told Nikkei Asia on the sidelines of PALM 10: "There is a responsibility on those countries whose vessels these are to provide support for cleaning them up before they cause any sort of ecological disaster." James Marape, prime minister of Papua New Guinea, agreed, saying the countries responsible for these "remnants of World War II" have a "moral obligation and duty to assist in the cleanup."



Adams, who is now director of the Australia-based Major Projects Foundation, a marine research and conservation nonprofit that identifies and cleans up wrecks across the Pacific, describes this as "the greatest problem that nobody has heard about." The foundation works with a team of subsea engineers, marine archaeologists, historians and bioremediation experts. Based on historical records of the ships' conditions and eyewitness accounts, Adams' team estimated there are now around 60 critical wrecks in the Pacific in need of urgent attention. What makes these wrecks especially dangerous is their proximity to local communities and the poor condition of their fuel tanks, which compromises their ability to hold oil. Some of the wrecks' fuel tanks and hulls have ruptured, causing oil and fuel to spill into the sea. (Major Projects Foundation) More severe weather events caused by climate change exacerbate the risk of oil leaking from the wrecks. "Every time a weather event goes through these places, there is a disturbance of the wrecks," said Adams. Tidal surges speed up the corrosion of the sunken vessels, thinning hull plates and eventually breaking through the steel. Adams said he is "expecting quite a large number of small to medium oil spills over the next years," but due to the magnitude of the problem, Pacific island countries are not financially equipped to handle it. Cash-strapped nations such as the Solomon Islands lack the resources, manpower, know-how and equipment to conduct fieldwork and eliminate risks. "A large oil spill is in the tens of millions of dollars to fix," said Adams, while it would cost around one-tenth of that amount to implement preventive measures. He is pleased that Japan is "starting to take an interest and starting to see the seriousness of the issue." The Japan Mine Action Service, a Tokyo-based nonprofit organization that specializes in demining and unexploded ordnance disposal, sent volunteer divers to the Chuuk Lagoon to clean up oil leaked from Japanese degraded ships. It also assisted in repairing pipes that were leaking oil from the sunken Japanese oil tanker Amatsu Maru in Palau waters. "We appreciate that, and we want that to continue," Palau's President Surangel Whipps Jr. told Nikkei Asia. "I'm sure there's a lot more wrecks out there that we don't know about."





**Barrow-in-Furness Sea Cadets**

Invite you to the  
TRAFALGAR BALL Annual Fundraiser  
at

The Fairfield Lodge, Fairfield Lane, Barrow  
Friday 25th October 2024 (7.00 pm for 7.30 pm)  
Sit-down dinner and entertainment by Beth Horan  
Dancing till Late.

Dress Code – Mess Undress or Uniform with Bow tie, Dinner Suit.

Cost £40.00 per person  
All proceeds to Barrow Sea Cadets

To order tickets please complete the booking form below and return to  
Barrow Sea Cadets HQ, 1 Dundee Street, Barrow-in-Furness with cash or cheque  
No later than Friday 4th October 2024 to ensure availability of tickets.  
Booking enquiries – Tel 01229 821945 (Answerphone available)  
or email [barrowseacadets@gmail.com](mailto:barrowseacadets@gmail.com)

**BOOKING FORM  
TRAFALGAR BALL TICKETS**

**Name**

**Address**

**Tel No.**  **Email**

I require \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at £40.00 each and enclose cheque/cash for  
(Bank Transfer Details:-Acc 63191796, Sort Code 200468, Reference as Surname & initials with  
booking, or Cheques payable to Barrow Sea Cadets)- Email confirmation will be sent.  
Please make your meal choices with numbers in the boxes below. Please write on the booking form if  
you require a Vegetarian main course. FULL MENU OVER

<b>Starter</b>	Soup		Prawn Cocktail		Pate	
<b>Main course</b>	Roast Beef		Chicken		Mushroom Tart	
<b>Dessert</b>	Eton Mess		Sticky Toffee		Cheesecake	

**Booking form and payment (cash/cheque) to be returned by no later than Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Numbers are limited so book early to avoid disappointment, as bookings after this date cannot be guaranteed**

Raffle prizes will be gratefully received prior to or on the night. Many thanks for your support to  
Barrow Sea Cadets.

**SUBMARINERS 'CROSSED THE BAR' REPORTED IN JULY 2024**  
**(Information on 'Crossing to Bar' taken from all available sources)**

<b>Reported via:</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Rank/Rating</b>	<b>Official No.</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Submarine Service</b>
We Remember Submariners	29th May 2024	Albert Orme	Leading Marine Engineering Mechanic	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service from February 1964 to 12th January 1978 including OBERON
We Remember Submariners	5th June 2024	John Frederick Green	Leading Telegraphist	C/SSX 34113	101	Submarine Service from 1940 to March 1953 in H33, URSULA & VIKING
Leicestershire & Rutland Branch	6th June 2024	Bryan J Simpson	Leading Seaman	SSX 857108	90	Submarine Service from 1952 to 1958 in SCYTHIAN (1953), SOLENT (1953), SLEUTH (1953 to 1954), SCORCHER (1954), SIDON (1954 to 1955) & TRUNCHEON (1956 & on Commissioning on 21st January 1957 to 1958)
Essex Branch & We Remember Submariners	17th June 2024	Anthony F (Tony) Tinson	Leading Radio Operator	P/J981962	82	Submarine Service from June 1961 to August 1968 in WALRUS (1961 to 1962), TABARD (1962), TAPIR (1962 to 1963), TACITURN (1964) & WALRUS (1965 to 1968)
Gosport Branch	6th July 2024	Roy Wilson, BEM	Fleet Chief Petty Officer Cook	M978276 & P/MX 924712	87	Submarine Service from 1958 to 1963 in TURPIN (1959 to 1960), TRENCHANT (1961 to 1962) & AURIGA (1962 to 1963) on 'Commissioning' at Devonport on 31st May 1962
We Remember Submariners	8th July 2024	David H Slinn	Chief Petty Officer Weapons Engineering Artificer	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service in RENOWN (P) (1st Commission Crew) on 15th November 1968 & REVENGE
We Remember Submariners	9th July 2024	John (Nigel) Thorne	TBA	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service including ONSLAUGHT, OTTER & TORBAY
Dolphin Branch & Friend of SM Museum	10th July 2024	Ian David Anderson, OBE	Commander (WESM)	CO 00136L	89	Submarine Service from March 1961 to July 1986 in EXPLORER (1961 to 1962), EXCALIBUR (1962), ORPHEUS (1962 to 1963), OPOSSUM (1963 & on commissioning at Birkenhead on 29th February 1964 to 1965), CONQUEROR (1968 to 1969) & WARSPITE (1969 to 1971)
We Remember Submariners	13th July 2024	Leslie H Mussell	Able Seaman (RP*)	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service including RENOWN (P) (1st Commission Crew) on 15th November 1968
Gosport Branch & We Remember Submariners	15th July 2024	Barry Edwin James Loram	Leading Marine Engineering Mechanic (M)	P098908E	75	Submarine Service from October 1970 to June 1976 in DREADNOUGHT

Reported via:	Date	Name	Rank/Rating	Official No.	Age	Submarine Service
Bath Branch	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Christopher Bernard Cecil Hyde	Lt Commander (E) MESM	CO 22048X	79	Submarine Service from 1967 to 1985 in REPULSE (P) (1969 to 1971), RENOWN (P) (1977 to 1979) & DEFIANCE & SCEPTRE (DME0 1982 to 1984)
We Remember Submariners	July 2024	Philip (Floyd) Sturman	Leading Cook	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service in VALIANT (16th February 1980 Commission) & VALIANT (on 12th August 1994 - de-commissioning), COURAGEOUS & WARSPITE

