

January/February 2012 Edition

“UP PERISCOPE”

The Newsletter of the
SUBMARINERS’ ASSOCIATION

New Zealand Branch

Patron

Cmdr. Con Thode, OBE, MID*, RNZNVR. Rtd.



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REMEMBRANCE

We remember, as always, the boats and their brave crews that remain on “eternal patrol” and particularly mention those that were lost in January and February.

JANUARY:

P311, C31, E17, Sea Horse, Undine, Starfish, L24, Truculent, G8, A7, E10, H6, E38, H10, Porpoise, K5, M2, E14, K13, K4 and K17

FEBRUARY:

A3, X22, Snapper, Tempest, P38, Vandal and Tigres

“We will remember them”

OBITUARIES

- Vice Admiral **IWAN RAIKES** KCB, CBE, DSC, DL . Aged 90. C.O. *H43* and *Varne* in WW2 and C.O. *Virtue*, *Talent* and *Aeneas* after the war. Flag Officer 1st Flotilla 1973 and Flag Officer Submarines 1974.
- ALLEN.** (Bert). LEM. Aged 85. President Essex Branch. Served in *Sortsman*, *Sirdar*, *Artful*, *Trespasser*, *Sturdy*, *Telemachus*. *Aeneas*, *Affray*, *Scotsman* and *Sanguine*. 1946 to 1956
- BEADLE.** Syd. AB. Aged 86. Leicester and Rutland Branch.
- CAMERON.** Russell. Cdr. Served in *Warspite*.
- CLARK.**R.J.(Nobby). PO.Elect. Aged 90. Exeter Branch. Served in *H32*, *Strongbow*, *Tabard* and *Amphion*. 1943 to 1953.
- DAWSON.** Edward (Dickie). CPO Cox'n. BEM. Aged 74. Gosport Branch. Served in *Tactician*, *Seascout*, *Andrew*, *Onslaught*, *Opportune*, *Finwhale*, *Otus* and *Sealion*. 1958 to ?
- EADES.** Bill. L/Sto. Dorset Branch. Served in *Token*, *Tireless*, *Auriga* and *Telemachus*. 1948 to 1953.
- EVERTON.** Joe. CPO.Cox'n. Aged 81. Not an association member. Served in *Totem*, *Upstart*, *Aurochs*, *Anchorite*, *Trump*, *Tabard*, *Tireless*, *Acheron*, *Otter*, *Narwhal*, *Truncheon* and *Alliance*. 1953 to 1970.
- FAIRBROTHER.** Colin. LOEM. Aged , Derbyshire Branch. Served in *Alderney*, *Astute*, *Aurochs*, *Solent*, *Trenchant* and *Valiant*. 1958 to 1968.
- JENNINGS.** Peter. L/Sig. Aged 87. Gosport Branch. Served in *H32*, *P511*, *Safari*, *Thermopylae* and *Sportsman*. 1943 to 1948
- MEDLOCK.** Alan. ERA3. Aged 83. ex Liverpool Branch. Served in *Tireless* and *Aeneas* 1951 to 1955.
- MYERS.** Keith. CMEA. Aged 63. Barrow Branch. Served in *Resolution* and *Trafalgar*. 1970 to 1988.
- SHIPP.** Anthony. (Tony) RS. Aged 76. Australia Branch. Served in *Artful*, *Thule*, *Trespasser*, *Anchorite*, *Telemachus*, *Orpheus*, *Seraph* and *Alliance*. 1955 to 1965.
- TRUBSHAW.** Harry. CERA. Aged 86. Liverpool Branch. Served in *Tally-Ho*, *Talent* and *Safari*.
- PHELAN.** Anthony. (Afro). LSETPSM. Australia. Served in HMAS *Onslow*, *Ovens*, *Otway*, *Oxley* and *Orion*.
- WADE.** J.W. (John). L/Sea.UC3. Aged 77. Chairman Colchester and District Branch. Served in *Trespasser*, *Amphion*, *Telemachus*, *Thorough* and *Porpoise*. 1954 to 1960.
- WELLS.** H.E.(Harry) . ERA. Aged 85. Dolphin Branch. Served in *Alcide*, *Spiteful* and *Telemachus*. 1946/48
- WHITE.** Fredrick. LROSM. Australia. No further details.
- WILKINSON.** David. LSUCSM. Australia Branch. Served in *Orion* and *Ovens*.

Submariners' Day to celebrate OCELOT 50

A special Submariners' Day, OCELOT 50, will be held at The Historic Dockyard Chatham on Saturday 12th May 2012 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the launch of HM Submarine OCELOT, the last warship built for the Royal Navy at Chatham, marking the end of over 400 years of shipbuilding in the Royal Dockyard. Further details will be posted on www.thedockyard.co.uk/ocelot50 in due course.

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH—J.J. MAGENNIS VC DINNER—26th. MAY 2012

Venue 'Wellington Park Hotel', 21 Malone Road, Belfast. BT9 6RU.

Contact Reservations – 02890 385050 – email - crooney@mooneyhotelgroup.com

If there are any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me by email – yvonnegeorge2002@yahoo.co.uk, or telephone – 0891 862111. An early reply would be appreciated from those of you who would like to attend as numbers are limited, first come first served.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

To Three of our Senior Members – Our Patron Con Thode Who will Be 101 on the 11th of March, Des Price Who Will Be 92 on February 20th. and Charlie Smith 98 on the 30th. of March. Happy Birthday Gentlemen

WOMEN TO SERVE IN RN SUBMARINES FOR THE FIRST TIME!!

For the first time in the 110-year history of the Royal Navy's Submarine Service women are to serve at sea. British Defence Secretary Philip Hammond today announced that female sailors will go to sea with the Silent Service by the end of 2013 – with the first volunteers beginning their training next year. Although women have been serving at sea since 1990 – and make up nearly one in every ten Royal Navy personnel – submarines have remained a male preserve on health grounds.

Concerns about higher levels of carbon dioxide in a submarine's atmosphere carrying risks to women's health ruled them out of service in Britain's fleet of nuclear boats. But recent research by the Institute of Naval Medicine in Gosport showed that these risks were unfounded and that there were no medical reasons for excluding women from service in submarines. That research came as part of an 18-month review conducted by the Royal Navy looking at the legal, operational, health, social, technical, and financial issues of allowing women to go to sea with the Silent Service.

The Vanguard class of nuclear deterrent boats will be the first to carry female submariners.

Initially this will be a small number of officers – volunteers who will begin training next year and will take up their posts towards the end of 2013. The first female ratings will be recruited and trained from 2014.

Women will also be able to serve in Astute-class hunter killer submarines from 2016 when the necessary modifications to the state-of-the-art boats'

accommodation have been made.

Announcing the decision to allow women to serve in submarines, Mr Hammond said: "I am pleased that women will now have the same opportunity to serve on board our submarines, carrying out vital tasks maintaining Britain's defences around the clock, across the world.

"The Royal Navy has always been at the forefront of innovation, and this decision represents another step in its distinguished tradition of recognising the contribution of its people and making the very best use of the talent from which it can recruit."

Second Sea Lord Vice Admiral Charles Montgomery – the Royal Navy's head of personnel and training – added: "Our primary objective in the Royal Navy is maintaining our operational effectiveness both now and in the future. "This carefully considered decision will allow the Submarine Service to draw on the widest range of talent and skills of our people – those in service and those yet to join. "It will therefore enable us to further consolidate our operational success. And it will give our women the same opportunities as men to enjoy a fulfilling and rewarding career in the Submarine Service."

The original decision not to allow women to serve in submarines was taken back in 1993 and has been reviewed periodically since. Following the recent 18-month review, medical evidence shows that there is no bar to women serving on submarines, although pregnant submariners will not be able to serve at sea for health and safety grounds because of the risk to their unborn child.

Cost Of Female Submariners Discussed in the Commons

The cost of refurbishing submarines to allow female sailors to serve in them was raised during Defence Questions in the Commons.

Last week it was announced that women officers will serve in Vanguard class nuclear-powered submarines in two years' time, with ratings joining the crew in 2015.

Defence Secretary Philip Hammond told MPs how much will be spent on bunks for women and on health precautions, should anyone discover they are expecting a baby at sea

December 20, 2011. BFBS

ASTUTE IMPRESSES IN NORFOLK



Picture : MC1 Todd A Schaffer, US Navy

Passing the cruisers *USS Monterey* (left) and *USS Normandy* this is the world's most advanced submarine making her debut in the world's biggest naval base.

HMS Astute made her debut at Norfolk Naval Station—roughly eleven times larger than HM Naval Base Portsmouth and home to more than seventy warships - on the latest stage of her comprehensive trials package in the Americas.

The Faslane-based hunter-killer boat has already successfully fired Tomahawk missiles onto a range in Florida and is gearing up for key sonar and torpedo trials in the New Year.

With *Astute* beginning to make her mark on the naval stage, she visited Norfolk Naval Station to fly the flag for the Silent Service and host numerous VIP's from the Royal and US Navies, keen to see the progress the submarine is making.

Indeed, a procession of senior officers filed aboard—among them Britain's highest ranking officer across the Pond Vice Admiral Tony Johnstone-Burt (an aviator by trade), and Rear admiral Ted Branch USN, Deputy Fleet Forces Command, responsible for the US Navy's Atlantic forces — as did American submariners, staff from the British Embassy in

Washington, and Rear admiral Simon Lister, the RN's Director Submarines.

In return, the senior submariner on the Eastern Seaboard, Commander Submarine Force Atlantic, hosted a reception for the *Astutes*; he was also given a thorough tour of the 7,400-tonne British boat.

And the four days in Virginia—where temperatures were still in double figures, unlike *Astute's* home base—also gave the 100 strong crew a chance to relax after the demanding autumn trials programme. They were hosted throughout their time in Norfolk by the crew of the *USS Albany*—one of the Americans' Los Angeles-class attack boats—and “got on particularly well as submariners in arms”.

After Christmas/New Year leave, *Astute* is due to head for the specialist Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Centre (AUTEC) ranges in the Bahamas where she will fire her Spearfish torpedoes and conduct sonar trials. Then she will visit 'magnetic silencing facility' to measure and reduce *Astute's* magnetic signature—thus making the stealthy boat even more difficult for potential foes to find.

Once all those trials are complete, she will make her way back to the Clyde in the spring.

Navy News, January 2012

CREW OF 1917 SUBMARINE REMEMBERED

32 men who died when their submarine sank in 1917 have been remembered in memorial services at HM Naval Base Clyde and in Glasgow.

The steam propelled submarine K13 sank in the Gareloch during her sea trials. 80 men were on board: 53 crew, 14 employees of a firm of Govan ship builders, five Admiralty officials, a pilot and the captain and engineer of the still to be completed K14.

K13's captain, Lieutenant Commander Godfrey Herbert, and K14's captain, Commander Francis Goodhart, tried to escape using the space between the inner and outer hatches of the conning tower. Herbert made it to the surface but Goodhart was trapped within the casing. A separate wreath was laid at his grave in Faslane Cemetery on Sunday. On Saturday, HMS Neptune chaplain Richard Rowe led the service in Govan's Elder Park for the Glasgow workers who died. On the Sunday, Faslane Flotilla chaplain Mark Davidson conducted the services with-

in the Base and at Faslane Cemetery.

Representing the Royal Navy were Commodore Mike Wareham, the Naval Base Commander, and Captain Phil Buckley, Captain of the Faslane Flotilla. There were more than 60 representatives of the Submariners Association in attendance along with 15 Sea Cadets.

K13 was salvaged in the March of 1917 and recommissioned as K22.

MoD Oracle 31-01-12



Explorers have discovered the wreck of a British submarine that sank off the coast of Malta in one of the worst naval disasters of the second world war.

Nearly 90 men lost their lives when HMS *Olympus* struck a mine and sank as it tried to evade German and Italian warships blockading Grand Harbour in the early hours of 8 May 1942.

A team of divers from a Florida-based exploration trust found the wreck while surveying the ocean floor off Malta last year. They announced their findings to the British government and the Royal Navy this week. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is expected to now formally designate the site.

"We are extremely excited by this discovery, it's a very important piece of Malta's history during the war," said Timmy Gambin, archaeological director of the Aurora Trust, a foundation set up to promote knowledge of maritime cultural history.

"The Royal Navy ran a large number of operations using submarines in and out of the island for many purposes, not least as a magic carpet ferrying fuel, ammunition and food, and Olympus played an extremely important role."

The trust, which has headquarters in Key Largo and a logistical base in Malta, visited the wreck, seven miles off the coast, twice last summer. During the second dive in September it sent down a remotely operated vehicle equipped with video cameras to capture images that confirmed the 80-metre-long vessel's identity.

"We had suspicions it was the *Olympus*. Armed with our research on the features of the submarine, where the guns were, the placing and types of the rudder and propeller, we were able to identify her," Gambin said. "Except for the damage from the mine she was in pristine condition, sitting upright as if she'd been placed on the seabed." He stressed that Aurora had treated the site with "every sensitivity possible" given that so many lives were lost.

Many of the crew aboard *HMS Olympus* – an Odin-class submarine built in Clydebank in 1927 – when it sank were survivors from the recent sinkings of three other Royal Navy submarines in the area by German bombers.

The British naval base at Malta was a crucial staging post for convoys moving through the Mediterranean to support Allied operations in north Africa, but it suffered heavy losses.

"What happened with the *Olympus* is a sad and tragic story," Gambin said. "Many survived the blast and sinking but not the swim back to shore."

There were only 11 survivors, while 89 men, disorientated by the darkness and distance from shore, perished, according to George Malcolmson, archivist of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Gosport, Hampshire. "One of the survivors told me how he looked back from the water to the incongruous sight of all these shoes and boots lined up in neat rows on the deck as the sub was sinking," he said.

Aurora has passed video footage from the dives to the British embassy in Washington and sent photographs to the submarine museum. "It's a double-edged sword," Malcolmson said. "On one hand I'm pleased that for some people it's nice to know where their loved ones died but the publicity dredges up the possibility of intrusion and interference from people who are less concerned with the sanctity of a British war grave."

MoD Oracle 12-1-12



Being a radio operator on Tabard I recall a message sent to us from Taciturn on our leaving Sydney bound for the UK (Taciturn was due to return home some months later)

Message read:-

""Bon voyage - leave a route for me"

On relaying this message by voice to the captain on the bridge.

The word Route/root was a little ambiguous!!

Thanks to Alan Nutton

*Spent £40 on eBay last week for a p*n*s enlarger. Just opened it and some bastard's sent me a magnifying glass!*

I saw a poor old lady fall over today on the ice!! At least I presume she was poor - she only had £1.20 in her purse.

I was in the pub with my wife last night and I said "I love you." She said "Is that you or the beer talking"? I replied "it's me talking to the beer."

Terry Hall's Reflections!

An older (as a submariner I cannot truthfully say mature) reflects a little on his past links with the New Zealand Navy.

My links with the NZ Navy go back to the very early Sixties, in fact 1962 when my old man was serving as a Sgt Major in Sek Kong in the New Territories, Hong Kong. The sailors had been invited over the NT, no doubt for an exped or some other excuse, and an RPC was issued to visit the ship back in Hong Kong.

Being only 11 it obviously had an impression as in 1966 I joined the RN and my mother was horrified remembering the visit by saying you did not see what they did to your father! Got there own back no doubt using the Tot. Ironically, it was such erstwhile ships as HMS Taranaki who I had such great runs ashore with around the Far East, very often in Hong Kong, Singapore and Philippines but that was when we had a Royal Navy!

A couple of my enduring memories are of Christmas Day 1969 when one of the NZ ships had painted a wonderful image of a Kiwi on the side of one of Her Majesties War Canoes undetected on Christmas Eve, which we the common sailors thought wonderful, until we were ordered to paint it out.

If memory serves me right it may have been the occasion when many of the Daring's were in (six I think) and they were being transferred to both the NZ and Australian Navy.

On Boxing Day, Singapore Naval Basin was left wondering who and how on earth someone had painted "Made in UK" all the way down the side of the Kiwi Ship!

Such happy care free days despite the tension still prevailing up in Malaya and such wonderful mates to share company with at the Armada or Britannia Club, Sembawang or Nee Soon or just sauntering back to SNB (Singapore Naval Basin) with a Banjo or Nasi Goring telling dits.

I still remember the 'sports' days in HMS Terror where inter-ship sports were common followed by some terrific intakes of Tiger and San Miguel in the Armada Club to either celebrate or com-

miserate as the score dictated.

One memory is of a Rugby match against one of the NZ Frigates but I cannot remember the name. To say we got trounced at rugby would be an understatement; though when it came to football the boot was on the other foot so to speak. Our ship was in the double goals and the final whistle was imminent. One of the Maori guys built like the proverbial picked up the ball rugby fashion and cannoned down the pitch with the shouts from the crowd of stop him totally ignored. Scared? No, like all youth we were invincible, we were all rolling about laughing and the final score was 11-1 Try allowed and a good celebration as well.

Of course after 31 July 1970 the Kiwi's were always a firm favourite as a run ashore Oppo as you still had the tot! Finally in 1970 I landed up in BMH (British Military Hospital) Singapore and paired up with a Kiwi Seaman who had lost a foot due to a 4.5 Shell falling on it, and we were in adjoining beds.

Somehow, I know not how we were doing the daily beer issue trolley of a ward which I remember was very large.

Basically it was a can of Tiger or bottle of milk and as matelotes we obviously accepted the Tiger Can as 'Queens' when some preferred the milk! Bearing in mind many had such diseases as Yellow Fever and the Gurkha's and majority could not drink, we were very happy with our duty by the end of round! In those days they still had Matron's and her rollicking even in our inebriated state was as scary as any Chief GI on his hallowed Parade Ground.

Unfortunately my Oppo got repatriated home to NZ and I was sent up to the Tea Plantations of Cameron Highlands for recuperation or some might say to stop me falling in the monsoon ditch outside the Armada Club again which was about 10-15' deep - but that as they say is another story.

Wonderful happy memories, and as per the quip on the thought for the day on page one of Derbyshire Deeps - Growing old is mandatory, growing up is optional! I suppose some may say I haven't changed much, just got a little older?

Disposal of Russian Third Generation Nuclear Submarines Suspended

Russia has decided to suspend the planned disposal of third-generation strategic nuclear submarines currently in service with the Navy, Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin said on Thursday, according to RIA Novosti. "The most successful projects will undergo two repairs instead of one. The submarines period of service will be extended to 30-35 years instead of the current 25," Rogozin told journalists. He also said Akula (Typhoon) class submarines will be upgraded and their electronics and armaments replaced every seven years.

According to Rogozin, this will help gain time until all eight Borey class strategic submarines are deployed by 2020.

The deputy premier also said a naval vessel construction development program for the next 30 years is expected to be worked out soon.

(RIA Novosti) 07:19 GMT, February 3, 2012 SEVERODVINSK. DefPro

Historians at the Royal Navy Submarine Museum in Gosport are remembering one of the more unusual moments of World War II.

In 1941, the crew of HMS Trident were given a reindeer as a gift by the USSR navy. The 56 crewmen spent six weeks sharing their already confined living accommodation with the fully-grown reindeer nicknamed Pollyanna

Wartime tale

While on operations, fighting German forces in the Arctic Circle in 1941, the British crew of the T-class HMS Trident were given a gift of a reindeer by a Soviet naval admiral.

Bill Sainsbury from the Royal Navy Submarine Museum said: "The Russians were so grateful to the British especially at the time when no-one else was helping them - and this was all they had to give. "The story goes that the British captain had mentioned his wife had trouble pushing her pram through the snow in England - and the Russian admiral said 'what you need is a reindeer!'. And I suppose because it was a gift, they didn't want to seem rude by refusing it."

On board

Living with a reindeer underwater in wartime conditions inevitably posed challenges for the crew. A barrel of moss given by the Russians soon run out and Pollyanna lived on scraps from the galley. She also developed a taste for wartime favourite, Carnation condensed milk.

Pollyanna was originally lowered into the submarine through a torpedo tube of the sub and it was hoped she could sleep in the torpedo and food store. However she apparently had more refined tastes and insisted on sleeping under the captain's bed.

Bill Sainsbury said: "There are lots of funny stories - apparently when the submarine surfaced for air, she would barge her way through the narrow corridors to the main hatch to get some fresh air before returning to the officers' mess."

Despite Pollyanna eating a navigation chart, the crew made it back to the UK where HMS Trident landed at Blyth in Northumberland. However as the reindeer had over-indulged on condensed milk, she had actually put on weight and could not be fitted out through the torpedo tube.

Dry land

A dockside winch, with some assistance from a crewman with a broom, finally managed to get Pollyanna squeezed out of the submarine and onto dry land.

She was given to Regents Park Zoo (now London Zoo) where she lived out the rest of the war -

although whenever she heard a loudspeaker or siren she was said to have ducked down as if she was still on the submarine.

Pollyanna died five years later, ironically within a week of her old ship, HMS Trident, being decommissioned and scrapped in 1947.

HMS Trident would have been a regular visitor to Portsmouth, the UK's main base for submarines during World War II. Gosport's Royal Navy Submarine Museum has HMS Alliance, a similar World War II era boat to HMS Trident, on permanent display.

As part of a festive weekend at the start of December 2009, the museum offered children the chance to visit Santa inside the sub, and although no reindeer was to be squeezed down the torpedo tube, a barrel of moss was left in the torpedo store in recognition of one of the Royal Navy's most unusual passengers during World War II.

BBC Local | Hampshire Monday, 21-12-2009



Q: What's the difference between a blonde and a brick?

A: The brick doesn't follow you home after you lay it.

The wife suggested I get myself one of those penis enlargers, so I did... she's 21 and her name's Lucy.

Russian Navy to receive 1st Graney class attack submarine by end of 2012

| The delivery of the first Graney class nuclear-powered multipurpose attack submarine to the Russian Navy has been postponed until the end of 2012 due to additional tests of its weapons systems, the Sevmash shipyard said. Construction of the Severodvinsk submarine began in 1993 at the Sevmash shipyard in the northern Russian city of Severodvinsk but has since been dogged by financial setbacks. It was floated out in June last year and has undergone two sets of sea trials.

"The delivery of the [Severodvinsk submarine] to the Defense Ministry has been postponed until next year," Sevmash General Director Andrei Dyachkov said on Friday in an exclusive interview with RIA Novosti. Dyachkov said the testing of the submarine's weaponry required at least six months of additional sea trials in 2012. "The submarine itself showed a good performance [during previous trials]," the official said. "It will be commissioned by the end of 2012." Graney class nuclear submarines

are designed to launch a variety of long-range cruise missiles (up to 3,100 miles or 5,000 km), with conventional or nuclear warheads, and effectively engage submarines, surface warships and land-based targets. The submarine's armament includes 24 cruise missiles and eight torpedo launchers, as well as mines and anti-ship missiles. Meanwhile, the construction of the second Graney class submarine, the Kazan, at the Sevmash is going according to schedule. The Kazan will feature more advanced equipment and weaponry than the Severodvinsk, and can be considered as a prototype of modernized Graney-M class submarines.

Dyachkov said on Friday that Sevmash would start building a series of five advanced Graney-M class attack submarines in 2012 under a recent contract between the Russian United Shipbuilding Corporation and the Defense Ministry.

Novosti December 3, 2011 MOSCOW

Republic of Singapore Navy Commissions RSS Archer

Singaporean Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen officiated at a ceremony to mark the commissioning of the Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) first Archer-class submarine, RSS Archer, at Changi Naval Base this morning. During the ceremony, Dr Ng presented the commissioning warrant to Commanding Officer, RSS Archer, Lieutenant-Colonel (LTC) Jack Nyeo. Dr Ng also visited RSS Archer where he was briefed by LTC Jack Nyeo on the enhanced capabilities of RSS Archer.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, Dr Ng highlighted that the RSN would continue to build up and modernise its maritime warfare capabilities to better safeguard Singapore's interest. "The strengthening of our submarine capability is in line with this overall development plan to allow the RSN to better exploit the underwater dimension in maritime operations," said Dr Ng. He added that, RSS Archer, as the first Archer-class submarine, significantly enhances the RSN's submarine capability and strengthens Singapore's ability to contribute to the peace and stability of the region.

The Archer-class submarines were acquired from the Royal Swedish Navy in 2005 and RSS Archer was launched on 16 June 2009 in Karlskrona, Sweden. The first Archer-class submarine arrived in Singapore on 17 August 2011 and had suc-

cessfully conducted various system verifications and sea trials in local conditions as part of its operationalisation process.

With the enhanced capabilities and combat system such as the Air Independent Propulsion and advanced sonar systems, the Archer-class submarines will increase the RSN's operational readiness to better secure the seaward defence of Singapore.

The pioneer crew of RSS Archer had completed comprehensive training comprising a Submarine System Training Phase, where they were taught to operate the various advanced systems, as well as a Team Training phase, where mission-oriented trainings were conducted.

December 2, 2011. DefPro

RSS Archer crew saluting to the RSN Ensign during the Commissioning Ceremony (Photo: Singapore MoD)



RAN officer jailed for spanking female sailor

A senior Australian naval officer was sentenced on Wednesday to 18 months in jail for repeatedly spanking a junior female sailor in what he claimed was a test of her discipline and obedience.

Lieutenant Commander John Alan Jones, 58, was handed the sentence at a court martial, Australian media reported, after being found guilty a day earlier of seven counts of indecency without consent.

The military court had heard that two of the incidents, which occurred last year while Jones was serving on a supply ship, involved the young female sailor lying across his lap and him smacking her bare buttocks.

Jones told her it was a "test to see how disciplined and compliant you were going to be", in a recording she secretly made during one of their encounters which was played to the court. He admitted some of the behaviour but denied it was non-consensual or amounted to an indecent act. The young sailor had told the court she was scared of Jones and still had nightmares about the abuse.

Jones was also fined Aus\$2,000 on Wednesday for trying to destroy the laptop com-

puter issued to him by the defence forces, which the court heard contained spanking-related pornography.

He has lost his rank and will be dismissed from the Navy once the case has been reviewed.

Court martial panel president Captain Michael Hickey told Jones he faced imprisonment because of his gross abuse of authority, his moral culpability and the effect on the victim, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported.

His sentence will initially be served at an army base and will last a minimum of a year before he is eligible to be released for good behaviour, the ABC said, unless it is overturned on appeal.

Australia's military has acquired a reputation for a culture of drinking and sexism, and the defence force's treatment of women is currently under government review.

A recent report into the nation's premier military academy in Canberra found sexual harassment was widespread, following a scandal over a young female cadet unwittingly filmed and broadcast having sex with a colleague. *AFP Sydney. 15-12-11*

HUGE BLAZE ON RUSSIAN NUCLEAR SUBMARINE

One of Russia's biggest nuclear submarines has caught fire while docked but no radiation leak has been reported. The 11,740-tonne vessel was undergoing repairs in the northern Murmansk region when the blaze broke out, defence ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said.

He added that all of the nuclear missiles and conventional rockets on the *Yekaterinburg* had been removed before entering the Roslyakovo dock near Russia's border with Norway.

"The power unit was switched off and is now safe," he said. The dramatic fire quickly spread from the shipyard's wooden scaffold to the submarine's outer hull, with footage of the incident showing the submarine apparently engulfed in flames.

The rubber shell that minimises radar tracing, which most modern submarines are fitted with, is thought to have caught fire. A massive salvage operation was launched involving 11 fire brigades and a navy fire boat.

A special helicopter was used to douse the flames in tonnes of water from above.

Huge clouds of smoke could be seen billowing from the shipyard even after the fire had been contained, which one witness said "reached about 10 metres (over 30 feet)."

The Delta IV class submarine, which was commissioned by the former Soviet Union in 1985, can carry up to 16 inter-continental ballistic missiles and is one of six in a class which form the backbone of its sea-based nuclear defences.

Military prosecutors have launched an inquiry



Ananova 30-12-2012

When a woman steals your husband, there is no better revenge than to let her keep him.

RUSSIA HANDS OVER NUCLEAR SUBMARINE TO INDIA

Russia's K-152 Nerpa nuclear-powered attack submarine has been handed over to the Indian Navy, a RIA Novosti correspondent reported on Monday.

In line with the contract worth over \$900 million, the Project 971 Shchuka-B (NATO: Akula II) class submarine has been leased to India's Navy for ten years. It will be renamed the INS Chakra.

The ceremony took place in the Far Eastern Primorye Territory. Russian submariners trained their Indian colleagues to steer the Nerpa in the Pacific Ocean.

The event was attended by Indian ambassador to Russia Ajai Malhotra, United Shipbuilding Corporation head Roman Trotsenko, Eastern Military District commander Admiral Konstantin Sidenko and other officials.

The submarine's displacement is 8,140/12,770 tons. Its maximum speed is 30 knots, maximum operating depth, 600 m; its endurance is 100 days with a crew of 73. The vessel is armed with four 533mm torpedo tubes and four 650mm torpedo tubes.

India has become the sixth operator of nuclear

submarines in the world, after the United States, Russia, France, Britain and China, though it previously leased another Russian submarine which was then returned.

Twenty sailors died on the Nerpa in 2008 after the vessel's fire-suppression systems were accidentally triggered during sea trials, releasing toxic gases.

(RIA Novosti) January 23, 2012 MOSCOW



Experts Test Submarine Rescue System

State-of-the-art rescue equipment has been put through its paces in a four-day multi-national exercise. Experts from Britain, France and Norway were testing how the NATO Submarine Rescue System would operate if it was called upon by a stricken submarine.

The equipment, which is stored at HM Naval Base Clyde, cost £130 million and weighs 360 tonnes. It is able to dive to 2,000 feet, deep enough to operate anywhere around the world's Continental Shelves. It can be on the move within three hours, transported by 27 lorries, if an emergency arose. The System is on constant stand-by but has never been used.

During Exercise Massivex, 25 volunteers were subjected to the rigours of internment in two giant decompression chambers for 18 hours to see how they would react to the confines, the changed atmospheres and the pressures that would exist if they were rescued from a sub. In a real life situation, a loading platform is bolted onto a ship's deck and the rescue vessel lowered into the water by giant cranes. If the hull has not been breached, the rescue submarine can do the job on its own, bringing up 15 survivors at a time. If it has, the breached compartment is automatically sealed and the rest of the hull becomes pressurised.

The decompression chambers are set up and the rescue submarine transfers survivors straight into port and starboard chambers on deck which can take up to 35 people at a time. The vessel is designed to take as many submariners as possible because it can take up to four days to get someone fully decompressed and rescuers would want to get as many people out of the submarine as quickly as they can – if not, the bends can kill.

The chambers are staffed by professionally trained divers and nurses who can tend to the injured, clean any who are contaminated, and generally run things until it is safe to open the doors to the outside world.

Lieutenant Commander Kevin Stockton, who runs HM Naval Base Clyde's Northern Diving Group, said: "It is a quite brilliant stand-alone system designed simply to save lives. "Speed is essential in getting to a stricken submarine and the fact that we can be on the move in three hours with 360 tonnes of equipment is impressive in its own right. "Although it is essentially a NATO asset the brotherhood of the submariner is such that I am sure we would respond to a request from any government which had a submarine in distress. "The brutal reality is that if a submarine were to go down in really deep water there is nothing that anyone could do because the pressures would become too great for anything to survive."

The exercise worked around the clock from initial alert response to 18 hours of simulated decompression time. It worked – but as the participants prepare to return to their homes in three different countries, their hope is that it will never have to work for real.

MoD Oracle 24-01-2012

DCNS joins the last sections in France for Brazil's first Scorpene submarine

Yesterday at its Cherbourg centre DCNS started the last joining of sections of the first Scorpene submarine for Brazil. The welding of sections 3 and 4, a key step for assembling the forward part of the submarine, is a strong symbol in terms of technology transfer.

Yesterday morning in Cherbourg, the 12 welders of the French-Brazilian team started the final operations for joining the sections of the first Scorpène for Brazil. The next assembly operations will be carried out in Brazil. Four days will be needed for this operation, consisting in assembling the rings forming the forward part of the submarine by welding. The resulting assembly, around 6 metres in diameter, 24 metres long and weighing 200 tons, will subsequently accommodate systems including the operations centre, the torpedoes and the platform utilities (water, gas, electricity, etc.). During the first half of 2012 the tanks and large structures will be added to this hull, as well as the bridge fin, the ballast tanks, the access trunk and the fresh air induction cupola.

As part of the technology transfer, the Brazilian welders have received three months of training so that they could obtain the required qualifications. The contract covers the design and construction of four conventional submarines with technology transfer. The Cherbourg centre is currently host to 36 Brazilian trainees, bringing the number of trainees to 115 since the beginning of the contract.

Bernard Planchais stated: "This step is another successful milestone in the completion of this ambitious programme. It demonstrates the capacity of DCNS to implement a partnership that is both human and technological at the service of an international navy."

The contract for Brazil also covers assistance with the design and construction of the non-nuclear part of the first Brazilian nuclear-powered submarine and support for the construction of a naval base and a shipyard. The first of the four conventional submarines is scheduled to enter active service in 2017. They have a conventional diesel-electric propulsion system. With a length of about 75 metres, their surface displacement is close to 2,000 tons. They are operated by a crew of 30 to 45 persons.

The four conventional submarines meet the particular specifications of the Brazilian Navy. They are optimally configured for the needs of protection and defence of the 8,500 kilometres of the Brazilian coast. They are multi-purpose ocean-going submarines designed for all types of mission, including combat against surface ships, anti-submarine warfare, deep-penetration strikes, special operations and intelligence gathering.

DefPro 10-12-11



Scorpene Class boat off Rio.

ROYAL NAVY MAY RESTRICT SONAR USE AROUND WHALES

Royal Navy vessels could be barred from using Sonar if they detect whales, porpoises or dolphins because of a planned clarification of the law on protected species. An internal Defence Ministry report suggests the RN could be vulnerable to legal action if marine mammals are harmed as a result of underwater noise.

Military sonar has been blamed by conservationists for the strandings of whales and dolphins on beaches, and scientists have established that some deep-diving whales and dolphins can suffer fatal doses of the bends—in which nitrogen dissolved in the blood expands to form bubbles—after being startled by the sound of sonar. *Dominion Post Monday 09-01-12.*

Thales Awarded Sonar Contract for Astute Boat 5

Thales UK has been awarded a £30 million+ contract to supply the Sonar 2076 fully integrated search and attack submarine sonar system for the UK Royal Navy's fifth Astute-class submarine, HMS Anson.

Thales will supply the sonar system to BAE Systems Submarine Solutions, the prime contractor for the Astute-class build, to be fitted to the submarine at the shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness.

Under the terms of the contract Thales will supply a complete sonar system, comprising both inboard and outboard of the bow, fin, intercept and flank arrays, and the associated inboard processing.

Thales has now been contracted to supply Sonar 2076 and other equipment for the first five boats – Astute, Ambush, Artful, Audacious and Anson.

DefPro 07-02-12

The Last Word

ANDY ROONEY ON SEX!

1. When I was born, I was given a choice - a big pecker or a good memory.... I don't remember what I chose.
 2. Your birth certificate is an apology letter from the condom factory.
 3. A wife is a sex object. Every time you ask for sex, she objects.
 4. Impotence: nature's way of saying, "No hard feelings.."
 5. There are only two four letter words that are offensive to men - 'don't' and 'stop', unless they are used together.
 6. Panties: not the best thing on earth, but next to the best thing on earth.
 7. There are three stages in a man's life: Tri-Weekly, Try Weekly and Try Weakly.
 8. Virginity can be cured.
 9. Virginity is not dignity, it's lack of opportunity.
 10. Having sex is like playing bridge - if you don't have a good partner, you better have a good hand.
 11. I tried phone sex once, but the holes in the dial were too small.
 12. Marriage is the only war where you get to sleep with the enemy.
 13. Question: What's an Australian kiss? Answer: The same thing as a French kiss, only down under.
 14. A couple just married were happy with the whole thing. He was happy with the Hole and she was happy with the Thing.
 15. Question: What are the three biggest tragedies in a man's life? Answer: Life sucks, job sucks and the wife doesn't.
 16. Question: Why do men find it difficult to make eye contact? Answer: Breasts don't have eyes.
 17. Despite the old saying, 'Don't take your troubles to bed', many men still sleep with their wives!
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