

*May/June 2012 Edition*

# “UP PERISCOPE”

*The Newsletter of the*

## SUBMARINERS’ ASSOCIATION

*New Zealand Branch*

Patron

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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 May and June**

**MAY:**

Seal 5 May 40, Olympus 8 May 42, Undaunted 12 May 41, E18 24 May 16 and Untamed 30 May 43.

**June:**

Thetis 1 Jun 39, L554 Jun 19, Posidon 9 Jun 31, Sickle 10 Jun 44, Odin 14 Jun 40, Grampus 16 Jun 40, Sidon 16 Jun 55, A8 18 Jun 08, Orpheus 19 Jun 40, P514 21 Jun 42, K15 25 Jun 21 and D6 28 Jun 18

## “We Will Remember Them”

### OBITUARIES

**ALCORN.** (Jock). LME. Aged 88. New Zealand Branch. Served in *Otway* and *Sleuth*. (See Minutes of Branch Meeting page 11)

**AYLMER.** D. (David). Lt.Cdr. Aged 80. Australia Branch. Served in *Sturdy*, *Telemachus*, *Seraph*, *Ambush*, *Token* (CO), *Tabard* (CO) and *Porpoise* (CO). 1953 to 1969.

**COOK. J.K.** (John). L/Sto. Aged 90, Welsh Branch. Served in *Unruly*, *Vitality* and *Nebojba*. 1941 to 1946.

**DICKINSON.** K. (Dicky). ERA. Served in *Revenge* and *Renown*. No other details.

**FLOWER.** P.H. (Peter.) LSM. Aged 83. Nottingham Branch. Served in *Sanguine*. 1949 to 1954.

**FRATER.** John. OEM. Served in *Warspite* and *Churchill*. No other details.

**HEATH.R.G.P.** (Robin). Captain. Ex President Bath Branch. Served in *Auriga*, *Aurochs*, *Scorcher*, *Selene*, *Totem*, *Alderney*, *Andrew*, *Seascout*, *Alcide*, *Acheron*, *Renown* and *Skipjack*. 1949 to 1983.

**HOWES.** E.J.B.(Eddie). LTO. Aged 87. AB.LTO. Middlesex Branch. Served in *P555*, *Unsparing*, *Universal* and *U502*. 1942 to 1946

**LAWS.** M. (Jan). CPO Mech. Aged 69. Lapsed Member. Served in *Acheron*, *Sealion*, *Oracle*, *Resolution*, *Olympus*, *Walrus* and *Porpoise*. 1963 to 1983.

**POTTS.** R.F. (Ron). ERA1. Aged 85. Gosport Branch. Served in *Scotsman*, *Taciturn*, *Totem*, *Amphion*, *Thermopylae*, *Rorqual* and *Alliance*. 1953 to 1968.

**NUNN.** R.T. (Ralph). Tel. Portsmouth Branch. Served in *Safari* 1945.

**PARROCK.** J.R. (John) PO.Stwd. Aged 80. Dolphin Branch. Served in *Subtle*, *Tally-Ho*, *Astute*, *Seneschal* and *Alliance*. 1950 to 1955.

**SHACKLETON.** Gordon. L/Sto.Mech. West Riding Branch. Served in *Tiptoe*, *Sirdar* and *Thorough*. 1947 to 1954.

**WEBB.** E.J.(Scouse). AB UW2. Aged 74, Sunderland Branch. Served in *Trespasser*, *Artful* and *Tally-Ho*.

### **The Hunting Submarine - The Fighting Life of HMS Tally-Ho**

An e-mail forwarded by Jim Mc Master ( jim.mcmaster2@ntlworld.com) - Mark Trenowden has just re-worked his father's book 'The Hunting Submarine—The fighting life of HMS Tally-Ho and it is now available in electronic format through [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk).

He says that the book was well received and has had several incarnations

## Michelle Obama sponsors first-ever ALL-FEMALE nuclear submarine named after her home state of Illinois

First lady Michelle Obama has agreed to sponsor a future submarine named after her home state **that will be staffed by an all-female crew.**

The White House announced that Mrs Obama has accepted an invitation to be the backer of the *USS Illinois*, a Virginia-class submarine being built in Groton, Connecticut and Newport News, Virginia.

The new nuclear powered boat is expected to join the fleet in late 2015. It will cost about US\$2.7 billion to build the *USS Illinois*. The boat is being constructed by Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding in partnership with General dynamics/Electric Boat Corp., according to a Defence Department press release.

When completed the submarine will be 377 feet long, will weigh 7,800 tons and will be able to operate at more than 27 knots when submerged.

In her role as sponsor, the First Lady will be involved in the life of the submarine and establish a special relationship with the ship's sailors and their families.

'It's an honour and a privilege to serve as sponsor of the *USS Illinois*', the First Lady said in a statement. 'I am always inspired by the service and sacrifice of the men and women of the Navy, as well as the families who support them.' 'This submarine is a tribute to the strength, courage, and determination that our navy families exhibit every day.'

On Monday Mrs Obama met with 24 women who were accepted into the Navy's nuclear submarine programme and are serving on ballistic and guided missile submarines.

This is Mrs Obamas second foray into sponsorship. According to the White House, the First

lady also serves as a sponsor for the recently commissioned U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Stratton*, based in Alameda, California.

Other First Ladies have sponsored US Navy submarines, including Laura Bush, the wife of former president George W. Bush, who backed *USS Texas*, and Hilary Rodham Clinton, the wife of ex-President Bill Clinton, who sponsored *USS Columbia*.

In February, the Pentagon announced that it was opening up 14,000 new positions to women after a review of its combat policies. However the Defence Department has maintained a ban on women serving in units below the battalion level with primary combat roles and specialties like infantry or special-operations units.



*Honoured Guests: President Obama and the First Lady met with 24 women who are serving on ballistic and guided missile submarines.*

*US Defence department 28-05-12*

## USS Miami sub fire estimated \$ 440m

**The fire on board the nuclear submarine the USS Miami might make it into the Guinness Book of Records** as the most expensive caused by a household appliance. A preliminary investigation has found a vacuum cleaner was the cause.

The May 23 blaze at a Navy yard in Maine destroyed the nose section of the submarine, including the forward torpedo room, crew and officers quarters. The fire raged for 10 hours before it was extinguished. Seven fire fighters and crew members received minor burn injuries. A column of smoke was visible from miles around. At the time

the submarine was stripped of all ammunition for maintenance and the nuclear reactor was shut down, so nearby residents in Portsmouth were not affected. According to preliminary estimates the fire caused \$400 million worth of damage to the submarine, and another \$40 million to the dockyard. The US Navy is due to give a final estimate later this month.

The USS Miami (SSN-755) is a Los Angeles class attack nuclear submarine and was commissioned in 1990. At the time it cost some \$900 million to build. Its crew consists of 13 officers and 120 sailors.

*US Navy 07-06-12 (Picture Page 7)*

## Meet the War Lady: Royal Navy appoints first ever woman commander of a frontline warship

**It has a proud history dating back 500 years.**

But the Royal Navy will break new ground today by placing a woman in charge of a frontline warship. Commander Sarah West, 40, spoke of her delight at joining HMS Portland, a 5,000-ton Type 23 frigate that is prepared for 'total warfare'.

Cdr West's appointment is a remarkable achievement because women were not even allowed to go to sea with the Navy until 1990. She said: 'Taking command of HMS Portland is definitely the highlight of my 16 years in the Royal Navy. It is a challenge that I am ready to undertake. I am very proud to be taking command of a Type 23 frigate, which is an extremely flexible warship, and I'm looking forward to taking HMS Portland on operations with a professional and focused team.'

'HMS Portland carries surface-to-surface missiles for tackling ships, surface-to-air missiles for shooting down aircraft and a helicopter for hunting and destroying submarines. It also has a 4.5in gun, Stingray anti-submarine torpedoes and is bristling with radar and sonar devices to guide its weapons and help with navigation. Cdr West, from Lincolnshire, will be in charge of a crew of about 180, of which about 10 per cent are Wrens.'

Ian Drury, Defence Correspondent,  
Daily Mail on-line 24-05-12



S/Ms Terry Hall and Kevin Lawson of Derbyshire Submariners with the restored artefacts from HMS Tactician, courtesy Rolls-Royce.

(Eds note—I was Polto of *Tactician* for the last 18 months of her final commission in the Far East. She was due into *Dolphin* early in 1962 but whilst exercising off Pakistan she sprang a leak around the fore hatch and we returned to the UK on the surface, via the Suez Canal, arriving at *Dolphin* on the 23rd December 1961.)

**A Husband** stated to his wife they were having separate holidays this year and he was going to the 'Virgin Islands' and she could go to the 'Isle of Man'.

## SUBMARINE ARTIFACTS RESTORED

**Years of grime and neglect** were put right by Rolls-Royce apprentices in a community project which strengthened the link between the iconic firm and Royal Navy submariners.

The dilapidated artefacts were from WW2 submarine *HMS Tactician*, and were discovered by Jack Winstanley, a member of Derbyshire Submariners, at a bankruptcy sale in the late 1990's.

The items—the badge plaque and ship's bell—became branch assets, but were put into storage when members failed to find a suitable home for them.

Since leaving their original home, they have been on display in a miner's welfare club and were then stored in a garage, swathed in bubble wrap and plastic bags.

When the submariners obtained them the badge plaque was found to have woodworm, the bell was filthy and its plinth had seen better days.

Rolls-Royce offered to restore the items at their Raynesway site, replacing the original wood with British Oak and cleaning up both badge and bell.

*Tactician* project leader S/M Terry Hall and colleague S/M Kevin Lawson, who worked for Rolls-Royce for thirty years, formally accepted the artefacts, with Terry commenting: "What a wonderful job the apprentices and staff have achieved cleaning seventy years of grime."

But that is not the end of the story, as a new home has finally been found for the badge and bell.

They are due to be formally presented to Alfreton Town Council - described by Terry as "their spiritual home—at the same time as the Derbyshire Submariners celebrate the tenth anniversary of the granting of the Freedom of the City of Derby to the Submarine Service.

The plaque and bell will be handed to Counsellor Marlene Bennett the Mayor of Alfreton, the town which raised the money for *HMS Tactician* in 1942.

After a couple of patrols in Northern Europe the boat patrolled extensively in the Mediterranean and Far East.

She continued to serve into the Cold War era, finally being scrapped in 1963.

S/M Terry added that he had heard at a submarine reunion that *Tactician* may have been the first submarine to circumnavigate the world, as she left the UK to serve in the Far East but returned via the Panama Canal after forming the Fourth Submarine Squadron in Australia after the war—does anyone have any thoughts on that?

Navy News May 2012

# Ministers approve £350 million contract for Trident replacement

## The replacement of Trident will come a step closer this week as ministers start work on new submarines to carry Britain's nuclear weapons.

The Ministry of Defence will announce this week that it has placed £350 million of contracts for the design of new nuclear-armed submarines. British defence firms will be asked to begin work on the nuclear-propulsion systems for a new generation of submarines.

The move comes despite Liberal Democrat attempts to shift the Coalition away from buying a like-for-like replacement for the Trident system of long-range missiles based on submarines.

The contracts are the first to be announced since Philip Hammond, the Defence Secretary, told MPs that he had balanced the Defence budget, allowing new equipment orders to be placed.

The Trident system involves inter-continental missiles based on Vanguard-class submarines, which are now nearing the end of their working lives. The first of the four Admirals in service had been due to be retired in 2022. But ministers announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review in 2010 that the boats' lives will be extended.

On the current timetable, new British nuclear-armed subs are not due in service until 2028. That means the final decision about ordering new boats does not have to be taken until 2016, after the next general election. That has raised doubts about whether the programme will go ahead.

A referendum on Scottish independence expected in 2014 could also complicate nuclear policy.

The Admirals are currently based in Scotland, but the Scottish National Party has said that an independent Scotland would not be home to nuclear weapons.

Ministers have not yet said how many new nuclear subs will be ordered. The current fleet of four allows the UK to ensure that one nuclear boat is always at sea, a policy known as continuous at-sea deterrence. Despite Lib Dem doubts, David Cameron has insisted that the UK will uphold CASD when the successor to Trident is ordered. Nick Harvey, a Liberal Democrat Defence minister, has been considering alternatives to a direct replacement for the Trident system. One option being pushed by Lib Dem backbenchers would be smaller and less powerful nuclear missiles, which could be fired from the Navy's existing Astute-class attack submarines.

But the decision to spend hundreds of millions of pounds on designing new nuclear-armed submarines weighs heavily against that option. Among the companies expected to win design contracts this week are BAe Systems and Rolls Royce. The MoD estimates that the contracts will sustain or create as many as 1,900 jobs in the UK.

Britain is going ahead with Trident renewal – likely to cost at least £20 billion – despite making deep cuts in the defence budget. Mr Cameron yesterday told a Nato summit in Chicago that Britain's SDSR process shows that alliance members can increase their military firepower despite pressure on their defence budgets.

The summit discussed plans for "smart defence", where smaller Nato members will pool their capabilities to make the most of their military resources.

*Telegraph on line 20-05-12*

**The Organist.** A small church had a very attractive big-busted organist and her breasts were so large that they bounced and jiggled while she played the organ. Unfortunately, she distracted the congregation. The very proper church ladies were appalled. They said something had to be done about this or they would have to get another organist. So, one of the ladies approached her about the problem, and told her to mash up some green persimmons and rub them over her breasts, which should cause them to shrink in size. She warned her not to taste any of the green persimmons, because they are so sour they will make your mouth pucker up, and you won't be able to talk properly for a while. The voluptuous organist, reluctantly agreed to try it. The following Sunday morning the minister walked up to the pulpit and said. Dew to thircumsthanis bewond my contwol, we will not hab a thermon tewday.

**Paddy Has Broken His Leg** and his buddy Mick comes over to see him. Mick says, How ya doin? Paddy says, Okay, but do me a favour mate. Run upstairs and get me slippers, me feet are freezing. So Mick goes upstairs and sees Paddy's gorgeous 19 year old twin daughters lying on the bed. He says, 'Your dad's sent me up here to have sex with the both of you.' They say, 'Get away with ya, prove it.' Mick shouts downstairs, Paddy, both of em? Paddy shouts back, 'Of course both of em, what's the point of one!!??'

## Submariners Reflect On Falklands Conflict

**A retrospective on British submarines** in the Falklands Conflict was officially opened with an historic ceremony and a nod to the future of the Silent Service.

The RN Submarine Museum has created an exhibition highlighting personal memories of submariners who served in the South Atlantic three decades ago.

**Falklands 30 – War Patrols** was officially opened by the chairman of the museum, Vice Admiral Sir Tim McClement – 30 years to the day after he was second-in-command of HMS Conqueror as the hunter-killer sank the Argentinian cruiser General Belgrano, one element of a pincer movement which British commanders saw as a deadly threat to the Royal Navy task group.

Before a brief description of that clash, in which more than 320 Argentine sailors died, Vice Admiral McClement presented the prized Dolphins badge – the international emblem of the submarine fraternity – to LSA David Slater of HMS Trenchant.

LSA Slater recently transferred from the Surface Fleet – or went from being a ‘skimmer’ to a ‘deep’ – and his Executive Officer, Lt Cdr Jeff Fillimore, explained the process whereby a sailor must learn the submarine and its systems inside out before he can “join a very exclusive club”.

The junior rate then received his Dolphins in a glass of rum – the rum must be drained in one and the badge caught between the teeth.

A number of veterans from the Conflict were also at the museum to see their contributions in the exhibition, which was put together by photographic

archivist Debbie Corner under the direction of museum curator Bob Mealings, who said: “We have captured those personal memories that highlight what made the submarine patrols during the Falklands Conflict so different.”

Among the memories shared are the hurried arrangements to leave the UK (by Lynne McClement, wife of the Vice Admiral), and the curse of excess rice pudding – that from a young AB on board HMS Spartan named Mark Lister who today commands Trident missile submarine HMS Vigilant.

Others at the opening who contributed included Lt Cdr Frank Muscroft, former Marine Engineer Officer on board diesel boat HMS Onyx, which was tasked to finally sink the burnt-out shell of RFA Sir Galahad as a war grave, and his shipmate Brandon Hannon, who in 1982 was a 19-year-old radio operator.

The other submarines involved were HM submarines Splendid, Courageous and Valiant.

**Falklands 30 – War Patrols**, which is included in the normal admission prices, runs until November 4

Two Falklands-related talks are being staged as part of the Third Thursday series in aid of the Saving HMS Alliance Appeal.

On May 17 Vice Admiral McClement will examine HMS Conqueror’s 90-day Falklands patrol, while on June 21 Cdr Jeff Tall, former Director of the museum, will consider ‘The Falklands War – a close run thing’. Both talks start at 7pm and tickets cost £8 (£7 for Friends of the Museum and Submariners Association members. MoD 09-05-12

## Spain's Scorpene Class

The CIM-2000 Scorpene class diesel-electric attack submarine partnership marked an important step for Spain’s Navantia, as it joined with France’s DCNS to enter the global submarine market. Scorpene is an advanced SSK design, and can be upgraded to AIM-2000 configuration by adding MESMA Air-Independent Propulsion (AIP) systems alongside their diesel-electric drives.

Now Navantia is building on that base of expertise, to field its own S-80 design for the Spanish Armada. Spain’s new submarines will be larger boats with AIP systems as standard gear, as well as other important modifications.

### SPECIFICATIONS.

**Type of Submarine** - SSK.

**Range** - 50/60 days on surface. 20/30 days dived at 4 knots.

**Complement** - 3 Officers. 4 subofficers. 25 sailors. 8 Special Forces.

**Armament** - 6 x 533mm torpedo launchers. DM2/4 Torpedoes. Mk.48 Torpedoes. Sub Harpoon Block II missiles. Tomahawk TacTom Cruise missiles. (Range about 1600 km)



Military-today.com

# Russia Signs Contract For Five New Borey Class Boats

Russia's Defence Ministry and United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC) have signed a contract for the delivery of five new Borey class (Project 955) strategic nuclear submarines, USC spokesman Alexei Kravchenko said on Monday, according to RIA Novosti.

"I have information that the contract for five submarines has been signed," Kravchenko told RIA Novosti. He did not specify when the contract was signed but said that the signing was confirmed on Monday.

On May 25, it was reported that the ministry and the USC failed again to agree final contract terms for Borey delivery, despite the intervention of President Vladimir Putin. Defence Minister Anatoly Serdyukov told journalists on Friday after a meeting with Putin that his ministry and the submarine manufacturer would return to talks in the future to agree a final price for the Borey boats in 2015.

At the end of Friday's meeting, Serdyukov and Trade and Industry Minister Denis Manturov left to sign the deal with no journalists present, and it was unclear how the final agreement looked and whether it would be signed. Manturov told journalists earlier on Friday after the meeting with Putin that the contract would be signed Friday. He also said then that the Borey contract would be implemented in full.

"There will be five submarines and a design contract," he said on Friday. "The president made a considered decision that makes it possible to sign a contract with the Defense Ministry until 2020."

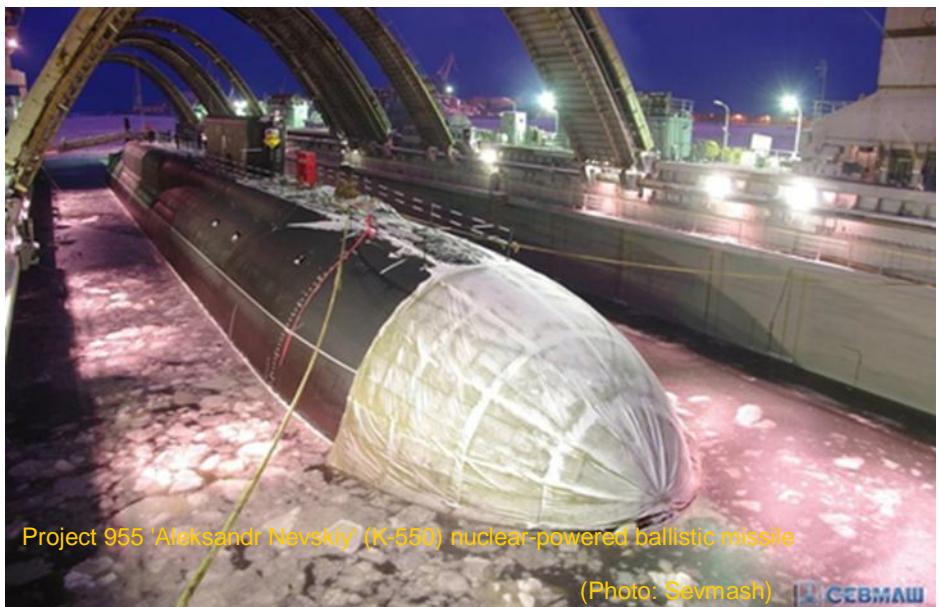
**The Russian Navy is to receive at least 10 new Borey class strategic nuclear submarines by 2020.**

The submarines, to be armed with Bulava ballistic missiles, are expected to constitute the core of Russia's strategic ballistic missile submarine force after 2018.

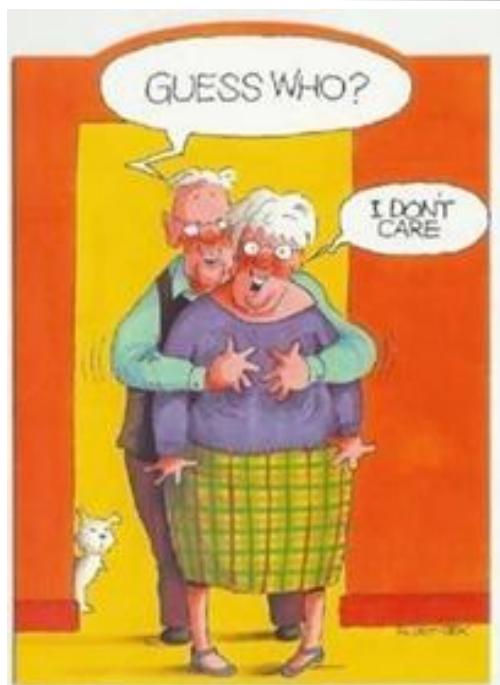
Then-prime minister Putin said last year that the procurement of new warships and submarines for the Navy would be a priority over the next decade. The Russian government has allocated five trillion roubles (\$156 bln) or a quarter of the entire armament procurement budget until 2020 for this purpose.

The signing of a contract for delivery of the Borey submarines has been repeatedly postponed due to the pricing dispute between the Defence Ministry and defence industry enterprises.

(RIA Novosti, Moscow 30-05-12)



The Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Miami (SSN 755) on fire at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (Reuters/U.S. Navy/Jim Cleve Land/Handout)



## HMS Astute submarine grounding was caused by navigation and planning errors

**A series of errors contributed to the grounding of a nuclear-powered submarine off the west coast of Scotland more than two years ago, a report has found.**

HMS Astute was on sea trials when it became stuck near Skye on October 22, 2010 and ended up marooned for several hours. Its commander Andy Coles, 47, was later removed from command of the vessel.

A service inquiry into the grounding, published today, found there were a variety of causes for the incident.

The report said: "The root causes of the grounding were non-adherence to correct procedures for the planning and execution of the navigation combined with a significant lack of appreciation by the Officer of the Watch (OOW) of the proximity of danger. "However, a number of additional causal factors were present, including some deficiencies with equipment." Rear Admiral Ian Corder, head of the Submarine Service, said that the organisation had learnt from the incident.

HMS Astute was on sea trials when it became stuck on a shingle bank on the west coast of Scotland on October 22. The vessel ran aground off the coast of the Isle of Skye but it was freed by the evening of the same day when the tide began to rise. But it was later damaged after a collision with the Coastguard tug the Anglian Prince, which was sent to free it. It is believed a crew transfer from the shore to the submarine was being carried out when the incident

happened between the Isle of Skye and the mainland.

In June 2007 the mammoth nuclear-powered HMS Astute was named and launched by the Duchess of Cornwall. A contract worth £3.5 billion was signed for the first three boats in the Astute class but there is no specific figure per submarine.

In August last year, HMS Astute was welcomed into the Royal Navy during a commissioning ceremony at Faslane Naval Base on the Clyde.

The submarine weighs 7,800 tonnes, equivalent to nearly 1,000 double-decker buses, and is almost 100 metres (328ft) long. Its Spearfish torpedoes and Tomahawk cruise missiles are capable of delivering pinpoint strikes from 2,000km (1,240 miles) with conventional weapons.

The submarine's nuclear reactor means that it will not need refuelling once in its entire 25-year life and it makes its own air and water, enabling it to circumnavigate the globe without needing to surface.

Built by defence giant BAE Systems at Barrow in Furness, Cumbria, it is the first in a fleet of six which will replace the Trafalgar class submarine. As the base port of all the Navy's submarines from 2016, Faslane will be home to the whole Astute class.

The accident happened almost exactly 50 years after the UK's first nuclear submarine was launched. HMS Dreadnought was launched on October 21 1960 by the Queen. *Telegraph on line 24-04-12*

## BAE Systems has been awarded a £328m contract for the design of the Royal Navy's next generation of submarines.

**The UK Ministry of Defence today announced** it had placed the first design contracts for the Vanguard replacement programme with the three main industrial partners, BAE Systems Maritime – Submarines, Rolls-Royce and Babcock.

It follows an announcement in May, 2011 when the government approved the programme's Initial Gate phase. Approximately 1,000 people work on the new class of submarines at the company's site in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, and in February it announced plans to create an additional 280 new jobs in 2012.

The first of the new class is due to be delivered in 2028 and will provide the nation's nuclear deterrent into the 2060s.

BAE Systems Maritime – Submarines is also home to the design and build of the Astute class attack submarines for the UK Royal Navy, and in total employs a workforce of more than 5,000 people. Managing Director John Hudson said: "The signing of

this contract is a key step forward in our business strategy to deliver a seven-boat Astute programme followed by the replacement class for the Vanguard submarines. Not only does it help sustain the jobs of over 1,000 skilled employees currently working on the programme, it also provides the opportunity to grow our workforce by a further 280 in 2012."

The remainder of the contract, which is worth around £350m in total, is split between the other industrial partners, Babcock and Rolls-Royce, to cover design aspects of in-service support and the submarine's reactor design respectively.

The Vanguard Class comprises four submarines – HMS Vanguard, HMS Victorious, HMS Vigilant and HMS Vengeance - all of which were built at Barrow-in-Furness from 1985 to 1999.

The new class of submarines has yet to be given an official name, though the programme is referred to as 'Successor' by those involved in it.

24-05-2012 Barrow-in-Furness

## 'Enigma' Parts Discovered

**HMS Collingwood will be helping The National Museum of the Royal Navy at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard commemorate the 71st anniversary of the Royal Navy's capture of an Enigma machine, as they reunite some very special items.** May 9, 1941 was the date that the Royal Navy captured the first, fully functioning, Enigma machine complete with rotors and codebooks from the **German U-boat 110.**

CPO Craig "Blood" Read and PO Dan Powditch were cleaning out their store in MERCURY building in HMS Collingwood in Fareham when they found a box containing three rotors for an Enigma machine. Not being convinced they could be original, they put them back in a cupboard.

It was whilst getting some flags from the same store with CPO Jack Goozee, during Easter leave, that CPO Read got the box of rotors down and asked him what he thought they were. In his opinion they were probably Enigma machine rotors and after a few searches on the internet they discovered that the box was original and also the Senior Rates mess in the old HMS Mercury had donated a machine of the same number to the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN). As both the museum's machine and the rotors originated from HMS Mercury, the Royal Navy Signals School and Combined Signals School<sup>[i]</sup>, it looks like the two have been separated for the last 29 years. They will now be reunited on the 9th May with an official handover at the NMRN by Commodore Mansergh to Professor Dominic Tweddle, Director-General of the Museum.

The Enigma Machine was donated to the NMRN in 1983 by HMS Mercury and is a type M4 machine. It was probably used by the Norwegian Harbour Police, but is missing the reflector. The first rotor, therefore, has been adapted to enable it to do the reflector's job. This makes the machine an unusual specimen.

Richard Noyce, Curator of Artefacts at the

NMRN explains: "The number M15653 on the machine matches the number on the box of rotors and the box is stamped with 'Kommando der Marine Sation Der 021' albeit smudged and difficult to read. With both items originating from HMS Mercury I think there can be no doubt the Enigma Machine and its spare rotors were originally together. We are thrilled to be reuniting them again as they are a key part of our history."

The German military used the Enigma cipher machine during WW2 to keep their communications secret. The machine was available commercially during the 1920s, but the military potential of the device was quickly realised and the German army, navy and air force all used a more developed model of the machine to encipher their messages believing that it would make these communications impenetrable to the enemy.

The Enigma machine is an electro-mechanical device that relies on a series of rotating "wheels" or "rotors" to scramble plaintext messages into incoherent ciphertext. The machine's variable elements can be set in many billions of combinations, and each one will generate a completely different ciphertext message. If you know how the machine has been set up, you can type the ciphertext back in and it will unscramble the message. If you don't know the Enigma setting, the message remains indecipherable.

The German authorities believed in the absolute security of the Enigma. However, with the help of Polish mathematicians who had managed to acquire a machine prior to the outbreak of WW2, British code breakers stationed at Bletchley Park managed to exploit weaknesses in the machine and how it was used and were able to crack the Enigma code.

Breaking the Enigma ciphers gave the Allies a key advantage, which, according to historians, shortened the war by two years thus saving many lives.

BFBS 09-05-12

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**A Man And A Girl** meet at a bar. They get along so well that they decide to go to the girl's place. A few drinks later, the guy takes off his shirt and then washes his hands. He then takes off his trousers and again washes his hands. The girl has been watching him and says: 'You must be a dentist.' The guy, surprised, says: Yes, How did you figure that out? 'Easy' she replies, 'you keep washing your hands.' One thing leads to another and they make love. After it's over the girl says: 'You must be a very good dentist.' The man, now with an inflated ego, says: 'I certainly am, how did you know that?' The girl replies: "I didn't feel a thing.'

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**A woman came home**, screeching her car into the driveway, and ran into the house. She slammed the door and shouted at the top of her lungs, 'Honey, pack your bags. I won the lottery!'

The husband said, 'Oh my God! What should I pack, beach stuff or mountain stuff?' 'Doesn't matter,' she said. 'Just get out.'

## Future USS Mississippi Successfully Passes Sea Trials, On Track for Summer Commissioning

**Pre-Commissioning Unit Mississippi (SSN 782)**, the nation's newest and most advanced nuclear-powered attack submarine, arrived April 17 at General Dynamics Electric Boat following its successful completion of Alpha and Bravo sea trials.

Testing evolutions completed during Alpha sea trials included diving to test depth, conducting an emergency surfacing, and testing the submarine's propulsion plant and were designed to evaluate the ship's seaworthiness and operational performance.

"With each Virginia-class submarine delivery, we continue to raise the performance and quality even further above an already high bar. Our first look at Mississippi's performance underway shows that she has continued that trend," said Virginia Class Program Manager Rear Adm. (sel.) Michael Jabaley, who rode the ship during Alpha trials.

Bravo trials consisted of testing Virginia's acoustic performance and combat systems. The ninth ship of the Virginia-class, Mississippi is on track to deliver up to one year early of its contract delivery date. All Virginia-class submarines currently under construction are scheduled to deliver earlier than their original contract delivery dates.

Virginia-class submarines are designed to dominate the world's littoral and deep waters while conducting Anti-submarine; anti-surface ship; strike; special operation forces; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; irregular warfare; and mine warfare missions. Their inherent stealth, endurance, firepower, and sensor suite directly enable them to support five of the six Maritime Strategy Core Capabilities - sea control, power projection, forward presence, maritime security, and deterrence.

Defpro.

## Israel Receives Fourth Dolphin-class Submarine

To arrive in Israel in 2013, the new submarine is considered one of the most advanced worldwide 14:08 GMT, May 4, 2012 In a ceremony conducted May 3 at the HDW shipyard in the city of Kiel, Germany, Israel assumed control of a fourth Dolphin-class submarine. The submarine, titled the Tanin (Crocodile), was inaugurated by Israeli and German officials, who broke a bottle of champagne on the submarine's outer hull. It was officially handed over to the Ministry of Defense and the Israeli Navy following the acquisition and development process led by the Ministry of Defense and the Israeli Navy. Representatives of the Ministry of Defense and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Navy attended the event.

## Major Construction Milestone Achieved on Virginia-Class Submarine Minnesota

Huntington Ingalls Industries announced today that the Virginia-class submarine Minnesota (SSN 783) is "pressure hull complete," signifying that all of the submarine's hull sections have been joined to form a single, watertight unit. Minnesota will be the 10th Virginia-class submarine and the fifth delivered by HII's Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS) division.

"This is a key milestone in the construction of the submarine," said Jim Hughes, NNS' vice president of submarines and fleet support. "Our ship-builders and our partners at Electric Boat have put a lot of hard work into this boat, and it shows.

Construction progress on Minnesota is two months ahead of where USS California, the last Virginia-class submarine delivered by NNS, was at pressure hull complete. The accelerated progress is due to an increase in work prior to hull completion in a more cost-efficient environment, resulting in a reduction in both the time and cost to complete the work."

Pressure hull complete is the last major milestone before the submarine's christening this fall and delivery in 2013. The contract to build Minnesota was awarded in 2003, and construction began in February 2008 under a teaming arrangement between NNS and General Dynamics Electric Boat. Minnesota is 81 percent complete. *DefPro 24-05 12*



US Navy Virginia Class submarine



Israeli Dolphin Class

## MINUTES OF THE 1100 MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>. MEETING OF THE NZ BRANCH AT DEVONPORT RSA

President Jan Langdon Chaired the meeting.

Apologies—Con Thode, John Murray, Rod Simpson, Charlie Smith.

Accepted—Des Price, George Bowen.

Members Attended—Jan Langdon, Jessie James, George Bowen, Des Price, Tony Miller, John Harrison and Ken Rouse.

Toast to the Queen and remember the ‘Boats’ lost in May. We also remember those submariners and others who lost their lives in **HMS AFFRAY** February 1951 during peacetime.

Our thoughts are with Greta ALCORN and family upon the loss of Robert James ALCORN (Jock) 7<sup>th</sup> May 2012. A dedicated member of the Association who will be sadly missed.

“Anzac Day” saw wreaths laid by Submariners at the Auckland Cenotaph, ( Our Patron Con Thode attended), Devonport RSA Cenotaph and Birkenhead RSA. Not a bad turnout considering the declining numbers.

The “Submariners” banner was proudly carried by a Sea Cadet from Lt. Cdr. Jenny Fagin’s Devonport troop.

FINANCE. The Treasurer gave his report with the cheque account at \$286 and the Term Deposit at \$3,200.87.

Accepted—Des Price and seconded Tony Miller

Any other business - John Harrison put forwarded a motion for the monthly meeting Minutes to be included with the Newsletter.

Accepted unanimously.

Meeting closed with four ladies and four members going to lunch.

Hon.Sec. *G.L. James*

### **Notes From the April Meeting**

#### **“NEWSLETTER DELIVERY—E-MAIL VERSUS POSTED COPY.**

The Secretary is only posting “Up Periscope Newsletters” to members who are not on the e-mail list for delivery, as we are looking at reducing the cost of printing and postage. If this does not suit everyone please LET ME KNOW THAT YOU WISH TO BE TAKEN OFF THE E-MAIL LIST and your snail mail copy will be sent out. (Advise the Secretary NOT the Editor - Sec’s e-mail address is **sub22@vodafone.co.nz**

#### **IN FUTURE THE NEWSLETTER WILL CONTAIN THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETINGS**

##### **One liners!**

*When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.  
I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.  
Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.  
I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.*

## *The Last Word*

My wife only has sex with me for a purpose. Last night she used me to time an egg.

It's tough to stay married. My wife kisses the dog on the lips, yet she won't drink from my glass!

Last night my wife met me at the front door. She was wearing a sexy negligee. The only trouble was, she was coming home.

A girl phoned me and said, 'Come on over. There's nobody home.' I went over. Nobody was home!

A hooker once told me she had a headache.

I went to a massage parlour. It was self-service.

If it weren't for pickpockets, I'd have no sex life at all.

I was making love to this girl and she started crying I said, 'Are you going to hate yourself in the morning?'

She said, 'No, I hate myself now.'

I knew a girl so ugly... they use her in prisons to cure sex offenders.

My wife is such a bad cook, if we leave dental floss in the kitchen the roaches hang themselves.

I'm so ugly I stuck my head out the window and got arrested for mooning.

The other day I came home and a guy was jogging, naked. I asked him, 'Why?' He said, 'Because you came home early.'

My wife's such a bad cook, the dog begs for Alka-Seltzer.

I know I'm not sexy. When I put my underwear on I can hear the Fruit-of-the-Loom guys giggling.

My wife is such a bad cook, in my house we pray after the meal.

Some days everything goes wrong. I put on my shirt, the button falls off. I pick up my briefcase, the handle falls off. I'm afraid to go to the bathroom!

When I was a kid I couldn't play in the sandbox. The cat kept trying to cover me up.

I got lost at the mall and asked a cop if I would ever find my parents. "I don't know kid," he said. "There's so many places they can hide."

My wife likes to talk on the phone during sex. She called me from Chicago last night.

My family was so poor that if I hadn't been born a boy, I wouldn't have had anything to play with.