



SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION DOLPHIN BRANCH

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Summer 2014 Newsletter

Caught on the hop, I like to get the newsletter out at the same time as 'In Depth' and I was planning for the end of July so this newsletter is somewhat rushed.

Norman Douglas Holbrook VC. The Victoria Cross Trust on the 21st of July will visit the West Sussex village of Stedham to restore the final resting place of Commander Norman Holbrook VC, the first Naval VC of World War One, and the first Submariner VC. From the Victoria Cross Trust website;



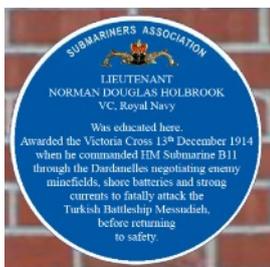
During the morning our mason will be restoring the headstone in St James's Church, Stedham. We hope we will have enough volunteers to help tidy the church grounds and assist in any work the Church needs doing within the cemetery.



Just after lunch, we shall commence the re-dedication service for Commander Holbrook.

I will be attending to lay a Poppy wreath on behalf of the 'We Remember Submariners' Facebook Group.

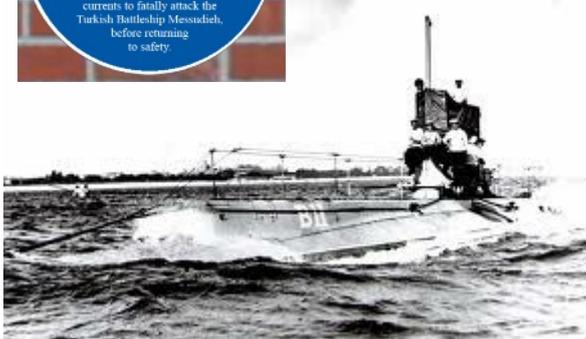
You will recall that as a branch we have sponsored a Blue Plaque to be erected in memory of Commander Holbrook the unveiling will be in September.



THE
PORTSMOUTH
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL

14:00

Saturday 20th September



Branch Social

I have arranged a branch social to take place on Saturday 15th November at 'The Sir Loin Of Beef' 152 Highland Road, Southsea. PO4 9NH. Muster at midday buffet laid on from 14:00. The licensee is a member of the



Portsmouth Branch, Paul Jeavons who I'm sure make us most welcome. The afternoon is not restricted to just members. **I would appreciate some feed back about those attending for catering purposes.** The Chairman, David Reader, and I have agreed that the branch will pay for the buffet. Just got to break the news to the treasurer, Tony Smith.

Embankment Parade

If you are attending the Embankment Parade and intend staying in the Union Jack Club and have not yet booked it, you're too late it's fully booked.

Our Patron Promoted

Several years ago the Ministry of Defence – as a savings measure – decided to do away with 'Five Star' Ranks for the three Services. This led to the situation whereby the Head of the Armed Services in the form of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) was of the same Rank as the individual Heads of the three Services - who were nominally subordinate to the CDS. It seems that this anomaly has now been rectified and the past three Chiefs of the Defence Staff have been promoted to Honorary Five Star rank. As a result the Patron of the Submariners Association becomes Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce KG, GCB, OBE, DL.

A Message from Dave Barlow a Hon Vice President.

I was very pleased to have been invited as a National Hon Vice President to attend the unveiling of the Naval Service Memorial (see above) at the National Arboretum. I, along with Jim McMaster (National Chairman) and our wives travelled down to Burton on the Saturday where we stayed overnight. We took the opportunity to meet up with Bernard Quinlan of Tuna and Cockleshell Heroes fame for a meal that evening. As usual Bernard was in fine form regaling us with submarine dits from the yesteryear. Although just turned 90 he is still as sharp as ever. Sunday morning we had the short trip to the Arboretum where we met up with Gill Molyneux (widow of Lt Ian Molyneux of Astute) and the four children. The eldest son is hoping to join the RN at Dartmouth in September and follow in his fathers' footsteps. The unveiling of the memorial was carried out by HRH Prince Michael of Kent, aided by both the First and Second Sea Lords. The parade and service was excellent and I was particularly pleased to see our National Standard and quite a number of branch standards on display along with many Submariners Association members primarily from the local branches. The parade of standards is the largest I have ever witnessed. I didn't count them but there must have been over a 100. Add to that a marching contingent of I would say about 500+ RNA and others and it made for a great spectacle. The official estimate was around 1500 present. The memorial itself is very modern and most unlike the traditional memorials we have come to expect. It is essentially a number very tall coloured glass panels representing the 5 oceans, the colours representing the different naval factions and a red one representing the blood spilled during the various naval battles and wars. To one side is a statue of a sailor facing west into the setting sun with head bowed. Apparently on a sunny day and at a certain time of day the sun shines through the panels and casts a shadow depicting a warship on the patio area in front of the memorial. Because of the crowds I was unable to get a decent photo but if you are in that area then take time out to visit, as it is a lovely memorial. On conclusion of the service we were invited to the VVIP Marque where we were introduced to the Prince and the other dignitaries. He asked after Dudley of course. All in all an excellent weekend and one I am glad not to have missed.

A reminder that if you want to attend the mixed reunion at Runcorn in September then I need your applications by the end of July please. If you have lost the bumf and application that has been previously sent out then please give me a call and I will send another set.

Well that's all for now. *Dave*

Reproduced, with permission, from the Barrow Branch newsletter

A MEMORIAL service at St John's Church, Epping on the 18th of June commemorated the loss with all hands of HMS submarine Sickle, the warship adopted by the towns of Epping and Harlow during warship week in 1942.

The service also saw the dedication of a plaque in the Garden of Remembrance and the laying of wreaths to remember the 50 men who lost their lives 70 years ago today (Wednesday).

Relatives of the servicemen joined civic leaders as a 100-strong congregation for the service which was led by Rev'd Geoffrey Connor and began with the parading of the standards of the Royal British Legion, the Submariners Association, the Royal Naval Association and the Air Training Cadets. A number of former submariners attended and Mick Vanner was present as standard bearer of the Essex Submariners Association and Rev'd Dr Stephen Dray, Essex Branch Padre, led the prayers. I laid a wreath on behalf of 'We Remember Submariners' Facebook Group.



The people of Epping and Harlow had been given the target of raising £175,000 for HMS Sickle.

The Epping and Harlow districts held various events including boxing matches, whist drives, children's parties and collections and personal and business contributions and managed to raise £176,389 in 'sponsorship'. Local people then sent continued their support of Sickle by sending letters and parcels to the crew.

If anyone has a dit or anything for the next newsletter send it to me by the end of September please.

Best Wishes,

Keith