

# SCOTTISH BRANCH NEWS

The official Newsletter from the Scottish Branch of the Submariners Association



PRESIDENT: Commodore J.Le S Perks OBE Royal Navy.

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**HMS TRIUMPH.**

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"Of all the branches of men in the forces there is none which shows more devotion and  
faces grimmer perils than the Submariners"

Winston Churchill.  
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## Editorial:

Dear Shipmates,

Welcome again to our Newsletter. On the front page you see the Submarine HMS Triumph which was unfortunately lost at the beginning of World War Two in the Aegean Sea. Members, present at the last Branch Meeting in Perth, were very fortunate to hear first-hand about some of the history related to HMS Triumph from one of our Members Mr. Gav Don who's Uncle Lt. Robert Douglas-Don perished while on a secret mission with HMS Triumph to recover 18 British Commandos. More about the story of HMS Triumph and Mr. Gav Dons efforts to search for the wreck later in this edition of our Newsletter. A big thank you goes to Mr. Gav Don for his presentation.

Although our Secretary keeps us all well informed about Branch events, I like to keep reminding you that we would still like to see more of our Members at the regular meetings in Perth and keep promoting the usual annual events such as the Dunoon Memorial Weekend, Anstruther Memorial Service and Dundee Memorial Service. (Information regarding dates for these events is at the back of this magazine)

These are all great events where we can honour all those men that were lost, but which also gives us all the chance to meet up and have a good time together, sharing a few drinks and dits.



## The Submarine Rescue Vehicle:(part two)

The NATO Submarine Rescue System is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation rescue system that is intended to rescue crews directly from their stricken submarine. It is jointly owned by France, Norway and the UK. There are essentially two parts to the system that can be either used together or independently. The smaller of the two is the 'Intervention' system; a Remotely Operated Vehicle (IROV) which can be mobilised swiftly to the stricken submarine, access the submarine and also supply the accident submarine with life support supplies such as food, water, atmosphere control equipment and medical supplies.



The second part of the system is the 'Rescue' system. This consists of a manned submersible. This is a manned Submarine Rescue Vehicle (SRV) which can dive to 610m. Once it has located the stricken submarine, the SRV will position itself over one of the escape hatches and lock onto the rescue seat. The atmospheric pressure in the submarine may be much greater than the pressure in the SRV and must be equalised before the persons to be rescued can be transferred to the rescue vehicle. 15 Crew members can be transferred each 'trip' although the real determining factor is weight (1175 kg).

Once the SRV reaches the surface rescued persons can be directly transferred to the Transfer Under Pressure (TUP) system. As mentioned the submarine crew may have been subjected to greater than 'normal' atmospheric pressures for considerable periods of time and if on reaching the surface they were allowed to leave the SRV into normal atmospheric pressure they could suffer the bends. So they are, if necessary, kept under pressure; rescued crew can be transferred from the SRV to the TUP whilst under pressure up to 6 Bar. This unit has two identical decompression chambers, capable of accommodating 72 rescued crew members and support staff. The 120 ton TUP also includes oxygen transport modules, a workshop, and the environmental control cabin. There are also 2 portable 2-man decompression chambers which allow the removal and treatment of individual patients including a medical attendant. While several countries have submarine rescue vehicles of one type or another the TUP is the only air transportable system in the world.



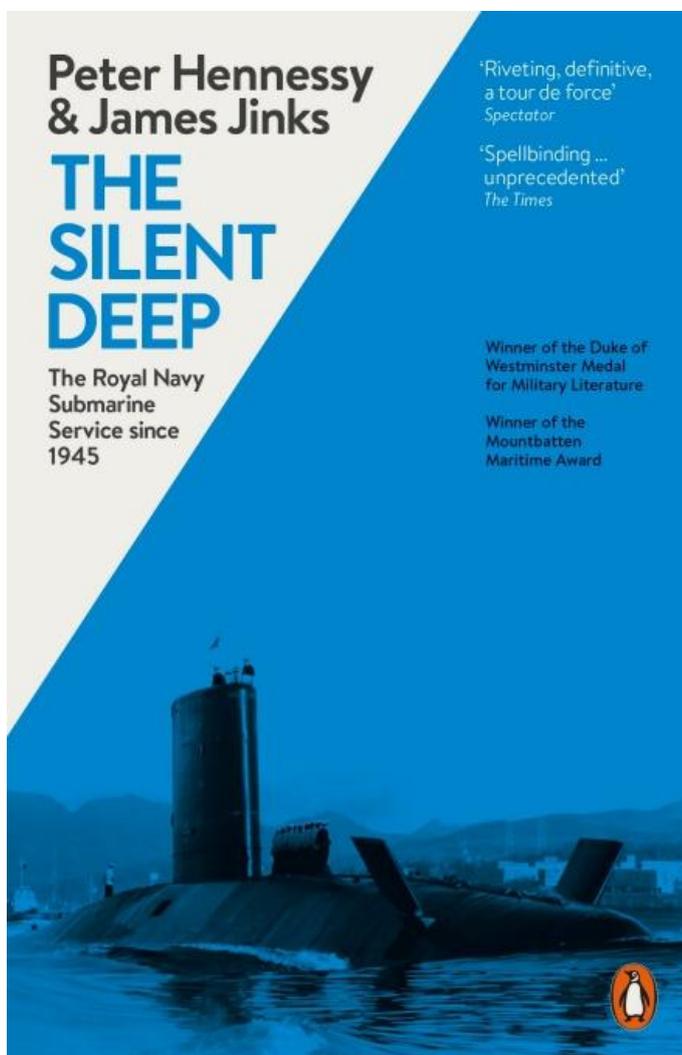
The Portable Launch and Recovery System (PLARS), is a transportable A frame that can be 'attached' to the support ship to enable the SRV to be launched and recovered safely in conditions with wave heights up to 5m

The system is capable of worldwide deployment and a fleet of 27 trucks are kept on 'standby' to move the NSRS to a port or airport, all the equipment is air transportable. Staff at NSRS headquarters keep a track of all vessels capable of supporting the system at the moment over some 1000 vessels.

When the NSRS is deployed British, Norwegian and French navies provide overall command and control personnel. They also provide the necessary medical staff, TUP operators and divers/swimmers. Various personnel, specialists in key areas such as ROV pilots and mobilisation assistance, are contracted in as required to support the core team. The total number of personnel deployed in support of the NSRS is approximately 80. The core team, based at Faslane, consists of 7 Rolls-Royce personnel that operate and manage the system; these are complemented by 4 SRV pilots, employed by James Fisher Defence and 2 Babcock personnel. The rescue system is exercised three times a year and the whole system is deployed on exercise once a year

(Supply of above article by courtesy of Mr. Keith Hall )

## NEW BOOKS



The choice for the book section this time is a fantastic book written by Peter Hennessy & Peter Jinks.

Written with unprecedented cooperation from the Service itself and privileged access to documents and personnel, *The Silent Deep* is the first authoritative history of the Submarine Service from the end of the Second World War to the present. It gives the most complete account yet published of the development of Britain's fleet, its capabilities, its weapons, its infrastructure, its operations and above all - from the testimony of many submariners and the first-hand witness of the authors - what life is like on board for the denizens of the silent deep.

This is a **'must read'** and is highly recommended, especially to those that played their own part in it

(Available through all major books outlets)

## The story of HMS TRIUMPH.

Sometimes you do not hear anything about particular events or stories for a long time. Then suddenly it seems to appear in perhaps a local newspaper or in one of the Newsletters that now appear regular from some Submariners Association Branches.

The story for the hunt for HMS Triumph is one of those articles. It got reported in the Daily Mail, then "In Dept" wrote about it, followed by a personal presentation by Mr. Gav Don at a meeting from the Scottish Branch, which prompted me to investigate this further and check out the website that Gav Don started.



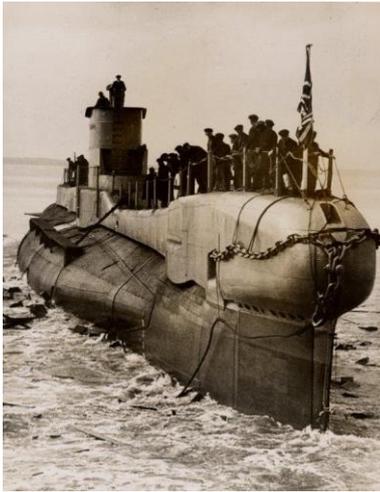
Mr. Gav Don at the controls of HMS Alliance during his visit to the Submarine Museum in Gosport.

Apart from personal involvement as a nephew of a WWII Royal Navy Submariner, Lieutenant Robert Douglas Don, Gav Don also provides us with a great insight into the events around Triumph's last patrol. From the information already available it soon became very clear that it was not going to be an easy task to get more and also accurate information for the search for HMS Triumph. Finding the Submarine was not going to be straightforward.

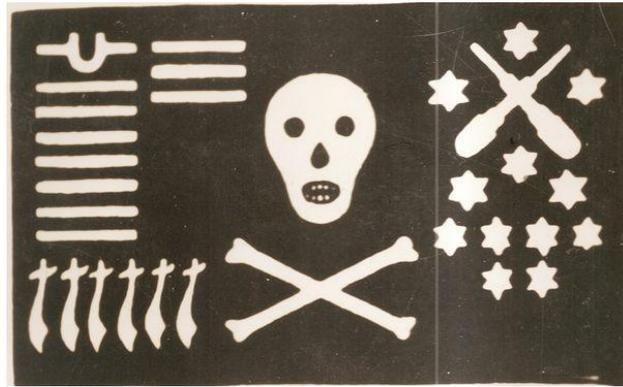
On the website, Gav Don is telling us about the obstacles that had to be faced due to misinformation by local representatives and also about a chance meeting with a prominent Greek wreck-hunting diver that lead him to valuable information concerning the events that required the involvement of HMS Triumph in that particular theatre in Greece.

Gav Don tells the story of the intelligence operation etc. and the subsequent failure of it all resulting in the death of many of the agents. It is a story well worth reading and probably similar to many successful and also unsuccessful operations that took place in those days. Many questions remain unanswered which makes it all the more intriguing.

Going back to the search for HMS Triumph, the combination of more accurate information in regards to movement of personnel and equipment in the search area as well as the availability of better sonar equipment etc. is helping to achieve Gav Don's goal to eventually find the boat and the last resting place of its brave Crew.



**Launch of HMS Triumph.**



**Jolly Roger from HMS Triumph**

Lots of work has also already been done to find and contact many of the relatives of Crew members. This not only resulted in more information for the search, but also produced many pictures etc. of Crew members which gives a wonderful human element to the story and an insight to the life in the Royal Navy and Submarines at that time.

The search for HMS Triumph has touched many people along the way and there is a Supporters section on the website which might encourage you to join Gav Don in his quest to find the Submarine. It hopefully also supplies him with even more information to continue his work.

This website "[www.hmstriumph1942.com](http://www.hmstriumph1942.com)" is well worth a visit. Should you have any questions or information for Gav Don, please contact him via the website or the Scottish Branch.

### **National & Branch AGM information:**

#### **National Reunion and Conference:**

Until now the Branch has not received the official Minutes from the National Conference yet. As soon as the Minutes are available our Secretary will distribute the detailed Minutes to all our Members. Any comments on these Minutes are welcome and should be addressed to our Chairman or Secretary in due course.

#### **Scottish Branch AGM:**

The Branch AGM was held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The number of Branch Members attending was a bit disappointing and we hope that this will improve in the future. The Minutes of the Meeting are still to be distributed by the Branch Secretary, but without spilling the beans to much, the National Conference voting results were one of the topics discussed. Other points, such as Membership, Events and Branch Finances were also discussed and the meeting was as is usual closed with the Tribute.

One important subject to mention is the Dunoon Memorial Weekend coming up in the beginning of May. The organiser of the event, Dave Barlow, made a very good point when he said that in particular many Branch Members had not yet informed him, i.e. sent information to him about their participation at the event. As we all know, Next of Kin details etc. are required for the trip on the Tender for Saturday and the number of Hotel reservations made are also important in respect of booking of the entertainment etc. This is a Scottish Branch led Memorial Weekend, please make sure that at least our own Branch Members are on the ball when it comes to informing the organiser about their intentions of joining us at this prestigious event. See you there folks!

Well that is it again. Sorry for a slight delay in the distribution of this edition of our Newsletter. Hope you are all keeping well and hope to see you soon at one of our Meetings or events.



50 YEARS OF THE DETERENT

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<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>VENUE</b>
<b>January</b> <b>25<sup>TH</sup>,26<sup>TH</sup> ,27<sup>TH</sup></b>		K13 Memorial Weekend Branch Meeting	HMNB Faslane
<b>March 10<sup>th</sup></b>	1pm	Branch meeting.	RSAS Club Perth
<b>March 22<sup>nd</sup>,</b> <b>23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup></b>		National Reunion & Conference.	Holiday Inn. Leicester 129 St Nicholas Circle LEX1 5LX
<b>APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>1PM</b>	Branch AGM	RSAS Club Perth
<b>May</b> <b>10<sup>th</sup>,11<sup>th</sup>,12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>N/A</b>	Dunoon Memorial Weekend	Dunoon
<b>May 10<sup>th</sup></b>		Russian & Ukrainian V/D	Dundee
<b>June 8<sup>th</sup></b>	1pm to 3pm	Scottish school slalom trophy	Alva
<b>July 20<sup>th</sup></b>	11 AM parade at Wade Academy 12 AM Service at Memorial.	Anstruther Memorial Service	Anstruther Harbour
<b>August 11<sup>th</sup></b>	1pm	Branch meeting	RSAS Club Perth
<b>September 7<sup>th</sup></b>	T.B.C.	Dundee Memorial Service	Dundee memorial and City Chambers
<b>October 13<sup>th</sup></b>	1pm	Branch meeting	RSAS Club Perth

