

# STARSHIP



## THE HMS ENTERPRISE NEWLETTER

Issue 02 | Sept 2020

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR LADY SPONSOR

It is with great pleasure and much pride and at the request of your Commanding Officer, Commander Ladislaus, that I am submitting this short piece to Enterprise's latest *Starship newsletter*. My connection is that of Lady Sponsor, a role I undertook on the day of Enterprise's launch at Appledore Shipyard on 27 April 2002. It was a bright, clear day. The scissors with which the launch ribbon was cut are displayed at home for all to see! It is courtesy of my husband, Admiral Sir Ian Forbes' career with the Royal Navy that I was asked to be Lady Sponsor. This means I have an association with Enterprise right from the moment of the launch. This, for me, is a strong connection and has been continually strengthened throughout the past 18 years.

Enterprise's Commissioning book states the role and expectations of this Royal Navy ship. She was to be a 'multi role hydrographic and oceanographic survey vessel to operate worldwide and seek out high quality data'. She was to have endurance and operate independently without support. As I reflect on Enterprise's role over 18 years I think this was a broad statement of intent! I am sure that the whole Ship's Company will unanimously agree that Enterprise's role has strengthened and widened in all areas of the world and in eclectic circumstances. As Commander Ladislaus wrote



recently, 'it is good to see the platform working in her contingency role', for instance in Beirut, 'and in her operational role', in support of the Littoral Strike Group. This has been emphasised this year with Enterprise deployed to crisis operations across the world and operational contingency work with other navies and military. From a historic ceremony at the Tower of London at the Ceremony of the Constable's Dues, to operations in the South China Sea, representative presence in Japan. Having the stores and supplies, excellent engineers and operators means that you are a data gathering capability unique in world navies. With so very many very well deserved awards individually and for the whole ship, HMS ENTERPRISE is continually building a fine record.

To sum up, whenever I am fortunate enough to be invited on board I am immediately struck by the positive 'can do' spirit built on professionalism and individual contribution. And so, to finish with my final words at Enterprise's Commissioning,

'I wish you all fair winds and following seas'.

- LADY FORBES

LADY SPONSOR HMS ENTERPRISE

## DISASTER RELIEF IN BEIRUT

Whilst at Limassol, ENTERPRISE was re-tasked to assist Lebanon with the aftermath of the devastating explosion in Beirut that took place on 4th August. Huge efforts were made by the whole of ship's company to ensure we were ready to sail and assist. With newly embarked personnel from both 42 Commando and the Mercian regiment, we set sail with field kitchens, cots, and food to deliver as aid.

On arrival, the aid was transferred to the jetty, whilst we liaised with Lebanese Armed Forces on how we could best assist with the situation. The sheer devastation of the surrounding area where we berthed was

indescribable, with the decimated grain silos standing only a couple of hundred yards away from the ship.

As requested by the Lebanese authorities, a complete survey of the outer approaches to the harbour was achieved and handed over to the port the next day. During this unexpected part of the ship's programme, the resilience and adaptability of the ship's company came to the fore and proved the ship's ability to 'boldy go' regardless of the circumstance.

A Remembrance Service for those affected by the explosion was held on the Quarterdeck as the ship pulled away from Lebanese waters. Our thoughts and prayers are still with them.

- SLT ROBINSON RN



*HMS ENTERPRISE making her way into Beirut harbour.*

## PROMOTIONS SIGNAL

Congratulations to the following individuals who have been selected for the next promotions signal. We wish you luck in your future roles.

### LEADING HAND TO PETTY OFFICER

[REDACTED]

### ABLE RATE TO LEADING HAND

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

❖ [REDACTED]



LET Chadwick receives his award

## AWARDS

LET [REDACTED]

Awarded the Worshipful Company of Cutlers *Sailor of the Year Award*. LET Chadwick will be leaving us soon as he goes on to attend his Petty Officer's Professional Course.

CH [REDACTED]

Awarded the *Hand of the Leg* award for his hard work in managing the catering sub-department in the absence of senior caterers during recent sea training and operations.

AB [REDACTED]

Awarded his first good conduct badge to recognize four years' service and good conduct.

SLT [REDACTED]

Awarded a Herbert Lott award for helping in the innovation of naval training by designing a new app to help demonstrate relative velocity.



Ray Wooley with Cdr Ladislaus

## DIPPING BACK INTO THE NAVY

Whilst alongside in Cyprus, HMS ENTERPRISE was able to host on-board Ray Wooley for his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Ray Wooley is a record holder for being the world's oldest diver; having been diving for sixty

years. Ray (who lives in Cyprus but is originally from the UK) is a former RN sailor having been a Radio operator serving in HMS HYDERABAD during the Second World War.

Ray was able to take a tour of the ship and lunch with the Captain during his time on-board.



## A NOTE FROM THE MAYOR

**Tiverton is the affiliated city of HMS ENTERPRISE  
the Mayor has written in to this issue of Starship.**

Here in Tiverton we are very proud of our affiliate ship HMS Enterprise. A number of councillors and mayors, including myself, have visited the ship and have always received a warm welcome. We in our turn have always welcomed the ship's officers and crew to our town to attend various events and ceremonials.

We know that you have had a very busy year, sailing thousands of miles to the Far East, and have recently been participating in the relief work in Beirut, well done, you have done great work.

Back home we have been experiencing life under Covid-19, with many shops shut for weeks, and schools only just re opening having been closed since March. Council meetings are conducted by Zoom, but we manage to carry out our functions as best we can. As a result of the inability to hold a full council AGM, it was decided

that my term of office as Mayor, which was due to end last May, should be extended by a year.

The town has been made as near Covid safe as possible, with one way systems for pedestrians and social distancing markings on pavements. While nothing is normal we just have to get used to it.

When shops reopened a few weeks ago the Mayoress and I, together with the Town Clerk went on a walk round town to see things for ourselves and encourage the shop staff.

On August 15th I was proud to attend the commemoration of VJ day, held under restricted conditions in the Burma Star Garden. Even while socially distanced, and with a pre-recorded bugle, it was still an emotional occasion.

On behalf of Tiverton Town Council, and the people of Tiverton, I wish you smooth sailing and hope to catch up with you when you are back in home port.

- CLLR COLIN SLADE  
MAYOR OF TIVERTON



*The Mayor, Mayoress & Town Clerk of Tiverton experience the new normal on the high street.*

## OUR FRIENDS IN GREEN

### HMS ENTERPRISE IS AFFILIATED WITH THE ARMY'S ROYAL WESSEX YEOMANRY REGIMENT

It has been a busy few months, firstly being notified of a requirement to mobilise in excess of 100 soldiers in support of Op RESCRIPT (UK military support to the COVID pandemic) and subsequently managing to maintain their Challenger 2 currency amid a torrent of COVID 19 red tape.

In early March, the Regiment were warned off to mobilise a Sub Unit and a Regimental HQ to support civilian agencies in their response to the pandemic. Frustratingly for the girls and boys of the aptly named Z Sqn (the composite COVID response Sqn) that volunteered but thankfully for the nation it was deemed that the NHS and other Government Agencies were coping, and the mobilisation was turned off at the last safe moment.

Up until early July the Regiment continued to train, albeit virtually and designed some dynamic events ranging from Navigation Exercises to Tactical Decision Exercises and lectures from expert presenters.

Ex WESSEX PHOENIX saw the Regiment come together for the first time since the lock down to conduct small arms ranges. Over 100 soldiers descended on Bulford Ranges to fire rifle, GPMG and Glock.

At the first opportunity RWxY deployed on the aptly named Ex BACK ON TRACKS which saw thirty tank crewmen and women deploy in order to regain their currency lost during the lockdown. The Regiment has continued to run training ensuring that every opportunity is taken to maintain CR2 currency and competency.

The next step for the Regiment is the Annual Training Period (ATP) in September which will see 150 soldiers and officers deploy to Okehampton Camp where junior soldiers will qualify as tank crews, troopers will attempt the Potential NCO Cadre and the remainder of the Regiment will qualify in other disciplines ranging from Signals to MAN SV drivers.

The future's bright, the future's unclear. The Regiment had expected to deploy two tank Troops to Estonia on Op CABRIT and deploy as a Regiment to BATUS, Canada for ATP in next year but that is now looking increasingly unlikely. As COVID 19 thwarts the Divisional estimate, The RWxY remain ready to react to whatever 2021 throws at it.

The Regiment is hugely admirable of the HMS Enterprise's work in Beirut and wishes you all good luck on your next deployment.

- CAPT. GEORGE LYNCH-STANTON

ADJT RWxY





## CASEVAC TRAINING WITH THE RAF

Whilst alongside, members of the ship's company took part in several land winching exercise (WINCHEX) serials at RAF Akrotiri with 84 Sqn Royal Air Force. This included multiple single and double-stropped winches and accompanying the Sqn on a sovereignty patrol around the area whilst embarked on the aircraft.

This culminated in a full scale casualty evacuation (CASEVAC) exercise at sea, with a simulated casualty with multiple injuries being winched from the quarterdeck, followed by Surg Lt Sales RN and AB Balden whilst underway.

This was all in preparation of the upcoming Search and Rescue Exercise with our Cypriot counterparts...



## SEARCH AND RESCUE EX

HMS ENTERPRISE helped to develop international relations by conducting search and rescue exercise with 84 Sqn RAF, and Cypriot counter-parts.

HMS ENTERPRISE initiated the exercise with a simulated casualty lost at sea that required 84 Sqn assistance to locate whilst ENTERPRISE

offered medical help to another casualty. Both casualties were then evacuated by a Cypriot helicopter to medical facilities ashore.

The entire operation was a huge success and of great training benefit to all involved. We look forward to working with our RAF and Cypriot colleagues again soon.

- LT LANCASTER RN

## BLUE WATCH RETURN

The end of August brought another watch handover with Blue Watch returning enabling Red Watch to get home and have some well-deserved leave after working hard during the recent demanding time for HMS ENTERPRISE including her visit to Beirut.

As is becoming the new normal, Blue Watch conducted a two-week isolation at Camp Radio Sonde, in Akrotiri. The facilities at the camp were topped up with a temporary donation of games and fans from on-board as well as a generous gift from RNRMC which enabled 'Cinnabons' to be delivered as an extra stand-easy treat towards the end of the stay.

The watch handover also means saying goodbye to the First Lieutenant Lt Cdr Jim Chapman who is being relieved by Lt Tem Kumwenda.



*Camp Radio Sonde Standeasy*



*Barbery in action*

## BARBER-SURGERY

In true spirit of his profession, our ship's doctor has been plying his hand at the historic twin to surgery – barbering. Surg Lt Sales RN has been offering his skills at hairdressing in return for donations to Cornwall Hospice Care, and has so far raised over £250.

Whilst he has not been offering any guarantee as to the quality of the haircuts he is providing, he has endeavoured to fix any scalplings, puncture wounds or lost ears to the best of his abilities.

The good barber-surgeon also wanted to clarify that meat pies were not served.

- BARBER-SURGEON SALESEY TODD



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## WARFARE DEPARTMENT SPORTING SPECTACULAR!

The Warfare department recently enjoyed a sports day at Episkopi's Happy Valley, hosted by the departments leading hands.

The weather was trying on our would-be athletes with temperatures rising to an uncomfortable 39°C, it made for interesting competition with games such as Rounders, Swedish Longball and Football dividing the department for bragging rights but enjoyed by all.



With cold refreshments to hand, the department battled on in their attempts to be crowned the day's victors. However with a nice bit of R&R prior to sailing achieved the true victor of the day was sport!

- LT LANCASTER RN

## CAPTAIN'S FAREWELL

As summer draws to a close and autumn beckons, this newsletter has once again brought together some of the range of activities which we've been up to over the last few months. It has been a busy time for us all as we have got ourselves settled back into operations somewhat closer to home. The challenges imposed by COVID are not going anywhere fast and we remain grateful to our families for their support especially as our rotations continue to be impacted by the need to isolate before re-joining the ship.

After over a year deployed away from the UK we very much look forward to our return home later this year. Under normal circumstances it would have been an opportunity to hold a homecoming ceremony and meet you all at the jetty as we return to port. With restrictions on social gatherings, distancing and the like, this is no longer practicable and as a result we will not be able to hold such an event.

Our time in baseport will be very tight, we have a handover to complete before heading up to a pretty full-on maintenance period. The knock-on effect of this is that whilst we will be back in the UK, we will still be busy and the team onboard will be home for their standard rotation periods. Your family members will be able to explain to you when they will be coming home for their leave periods. The one thing I'd like you to take away is that we're working hard towards a Christmas stand down period in order to ensure that as many people as possible are home for Christmas. As our maintenance period progresses we shall keep you updated to tidy up the dates for the stand down period.

It's certainly been another busy period since the last newsletter for all of us here, and undoubtedly for all of you at home. Thank you once again for your patience, support and help. Our successes are your successes and we certainly couldn't do what we do without your help.

Best regards,

*Cecil*