

STARSHIP

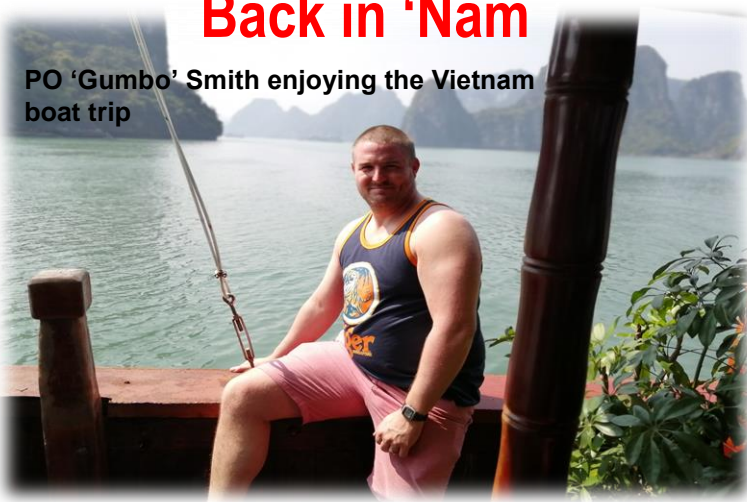
News Letter for HMS Enterprise

Issue 01 | May 2020



Back in 'Nam

PO 'Gumbo' Smith enjoying the Vietnam boat trip



Back in February, during our final weekend in Vietnam, many members of the ship's company loaded into a bus waiting by the ship and headed off to Ha Long Bay.

Our guide, Jackie, was a constant source of entertainment on the way. Among many facts, he was keen to point out that we were in one of the few truly Communist countries on Earth, and perhaps even keener to explain the rate of exchange between livestock and new wives in old Vietnam.

We got off the bus in a holiday park by the sea that seemed to be still under construction. Despite its unfinished nature and the worries surrounding COVID-19, there were still plenty of tourists there loading onto boats. The vendors selling cheap Vietnam holiday T-shirts, hats and fake Gucci bags on the quayside didn't give off a particularly Communist vibe, but this didn't seem to deter Jackie.

The sight awaiting us was worth the wait. Ha Long Bay is filled with thousands of huge limestone islands rising like towers out of the shallow sea. It was not, as we'd figured out, the same place in "The Man with the Golden Gun", but looked identical – if not even more impressive. We came alongside on one of the islands, and were led into one of their enormous cave systems. The roof must have been a hundred feet above our heads.

After a Vietnamese meal served on the boat, we popped ashore and relaxed on an empty beach nearby. Due to the COVID situation, nothing was open in the area, so we agreed it was time to end the tour and return to a much livelier Hai Phong! SLT J ASHBRIDGE RN

A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

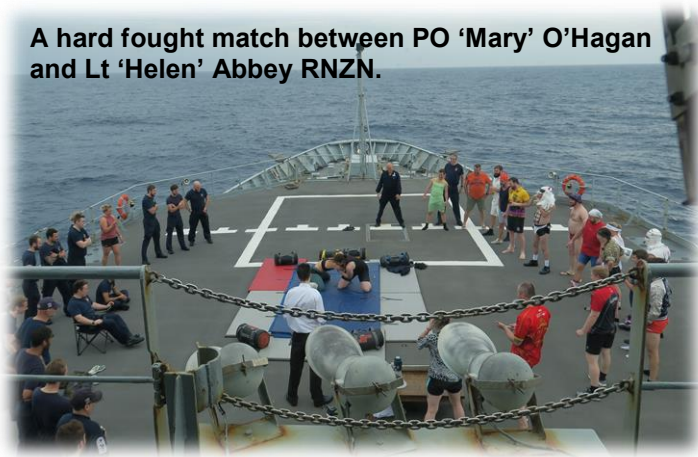
A few days ago I asked PO(AWW) Richmond if he could draft an update for our families. I had an update letter in mind but was pleasantly surprised when this arrived in my inbox. My previous letters have been very much my musings over the previous months but this, this is so much more. It will hopefully give you all a feel for what we've been up to as seen by all of us who live, work and play here in HMS ENTERPRISE.

I am really grateful for the inputs by the various members of the ship's company who have taken the time to draft articles and share their photos and stories! This period covers everything from Christmas in South Korea through to boat trips in Vietnam, and all the way down to memorial services in the Java Sea. Snow, sunshine and survey all in the space of less than six months! Please let us know what you think of the newsletter and how often you think we should update it.

Stunning views in Vietnam



A hard fought match between PO 'Mary' O'Hagan and Lt 'Helen' Abbey RNZN.



I'M DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS

T'was the night before Christmas when 5 members of the ship's company took the opportunity to go Skiing and Snowboarding in the rolling hills of South Korea.

CPO 'Dallas' Geddes, CPO 'Ned' Kelly, PO Mary O'Hagan, LET Lucy Baker and yours truly, took a 2 hour coach journey to a low-altitude ski resort north of Busan and took to the slopes.

Once we arrived we obtained our kit and psyched ourselves up for the slopes. As seasoned pros, Dallas and Ned hit the slopes straight away on their skis. As for the rest of us mere novices, we jumped on our snowboards and had an hour-long lesson to get to grips with the basics. Most importantly, we learnt how to fall over correctly. Once this was complete and we had the tick in the box we hit the beginner's slope. The mission to get to the bottom with no broken bones. The mission was a success!

It was clear we were naturals so we hit the big boys' and girls' slopes. Slowly but surely we worked our way to the bottom... some of the way on the boards, most of the way on our bottoms... but we did it! Back to the top we went several times getting better and better each time eventually making it all the way down the Pros slope with only minor bruises to our bottoms and egos.

PO R BROWN

PO 'Buster' Brown loving life!



LET Lucy Baker and PO Mary O'Hagan trying to find (and stay) on their feet



WRESTLING YOUR SOCKS OFF

During our transit from Yokosuka, Japan to Singapore, the ship conducted a Socks-Off Wrestling competition. The rules were simple, try and get your opponents socks off within a specified timeframe.

Competition was fierce between the messes, with a couple of favourites, such as Lt Darren 'El Macho Libre' Petty and PO Mary 'The Buffed Buffer' O'Hagan knocked out before the final.

After a number intense rounds, the final bout was between PO 'Gumbo' Smith and PO 'Buster' Brown. After many twists and turns it was 'Buster' who emerged victorious without losing a single sock.

With a little thought and preparation, this was a simple but excellent team bonding event with the added bonus of boosting morale. The title will be highly sought after, watch this space for the next round.

CH J RAPER

CONGRATULATIONS

- **PO(HM) Hastings:**
Winner of the ships CUTLERS AWARD. An award given to the member of the Ship's Company who has made an outstanding contribution to the Ship over the past year.
- **PO(SEA) O'Hagan:**
Long Service and Good Conduct (LSGC) Medal, 15 years good conduct.
- **PO(HM)Hastings:**
LSGC Medal, 15 years good conduct.
- **PO(SC) Scott:**
LSGC Medal, 15 years good conduct.
- **AB(SEA) Vanerp:**
4 years good conduct badge.
- **AB(HM) Carruthers:**
Promotion to AB(HM)1
- **AB(HM) Balden:**
Promotion to AB(HM)1
- **Lt Tobin:**
Selected for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Commander.
- **CPO Geddes:**
selected for promotion to Warrant Officer First Class.

PO 'Chris' Hastings - LSGC Medal



MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR HMS JUPITER (F85)

Given the troubled times the world is facing, it is perhaps important to remember that our predecessors have faced worse - and have sacrificed more for our collective future. On their way through the Java Sea, the crew of HMS Enterprise took some time to remember their predecessors – and in particular, the crew of HMS Jupiter, many of whom were killed or taken prisoner when their ship sank in the Java Sea 78 years ago.

HMS Jupiter was a J-class destroyer, the 5th ship of her name, built on the Clyde and commissioned in June 1939. On the 1st of September, she completed her sea trials and joined the 7th Destroyer Flotilla of the Home Fleet, based on the Humber. Two days later, the UK declared war on Germany.

Between October 1940 and May 1941, Jupiter participated in the shelling of Cherbourg, fought German destroyers near Plymouth, conducted anti-submarine operations prior to the raid on Genoa, and aided in the chase and destruction of the Bismarck.

Later in 1941, she was deployed to the Far East, and sunk a Japanese submarine in a hard-fought action in January 1942. Just over a month later, during the disastrous Battle of the Java Sea, she struck a mine and sunk within minutes. About 85 men died in the sinking, and a quarter of those taken prisoner later died in POW camps.

During the service of remembrance, ENTERPRISE invited two of her sailors to read extracts from memoirs provided by the Jupiter Association. The first was read by Engineering Technician (Marine Engineering) Todd Millward – a modern day stoker – who read (Stoker) George Squance's account of the sinking. This was followed by Able Seaman (Hydrography and Meteorology) Ryan Payne, who read AB Harold Lock's account. George managed to escape to Australia, but Harold – after swimming several miles to land – was taken prisoner by the Japanese and spent the rest of the war in POW camps. Both survived.

Sub-Lieutenant Jack Ashbridge then recited the Act of Remembrance, and the ship's company was brought to attention for a minute of silence. This was followed by the captain, Commander Cecil Ladislaus casting a wreath in remembrance. His opposite number aboard Jupiter, Lieutenant Commander Norman Thew, was taken prisoner.

Along with the shared kinship of naval service east of Suez, another thread ties ENTERPRISE to Jupiter. The last time a RN ship held a service of remembrance for the 5th Jupiter was in 1974, led by HRH the Prince of Wales – then a Sub-Lieutenant aboard the 6th Jupiter. In 2019, whilst ENTERPRISE was alongside in Japan, the Prince paid her a visit. He is the Patron of the Jupiter Association.

These deep connections between the past and present are part of what makes the Royal Navy such a unique organisation. Forgetting the sacrifices of those who served in the past would mean forgetting our identity – and our commitment to peace.

SLT J ASHBRIDGE RN

HMS Enterprise ships company paying respect to our fallen heroes



The 6th JUPITER pays homage to the loss of the 5th JUPITER, February 1942. Captain & First Lieutenant left foreground, Prince of Wales alongside the Bugle.

RETURNING TO CORE TASKING

Although the initial part of this deployment was largely focused on defence engagement with royal visits and the like, we have also been employed conducting our core hydrographic role too.

Operating in the hotly contested waters of the South China Sea, we have conducted routine tasking which has allowed us to continue to hone our core role as hydrographic specialists in the high seas. This is something we were doing around the UK before deploying last year, and is what the ship was designed for.



LS 'Jake' Whittlesea working hard



SMB Spitfire

Whilst most ships aren't able to deliver their core role alongside (air defence destroyers, aircraft carriers, submarines), we can. During our maintenance period in Singapore we launched our survey motor boat (SMB) – Spitfire – to survey the Sembawang Wharves. This area is home to the British Defence Singapore Support Unit, and is where we have been berthing during our numerous visits to Singapore.

For a number of personnel this was the first exposure to conducting survey tasking with shore elements. The aim was to produce high quality bathymetric data to update the local chart for the berths used by our allies who share the port facilities.

Given that we do not routinely operate Survey Motor Boat Spitfire, we needed to invest time to train our people. Although it has a scaled down capability from the ship's system, we needed to rebuild our experience to deliver smaller scale survey motor boat operations. One of the biggest challenges was the fact that survey operations had to be shaped around the ships occupying the wharves. We also had to refresh our skills on the land survey aspects to capture human features such as the jetties.

Results were pleasing with a number of advisory recommendations provided to the local authority. The main difference being a shallow patch which was some 2 metres less than indicated on the current charts. This may not seem like much, but it restricts the size of vessel which could access one of the wharves. This information was fed back to the UK Hydrographic Office and will hopefully form the baseline for the port prior to undertaking any future dredging operations.

PO C HASTINGS

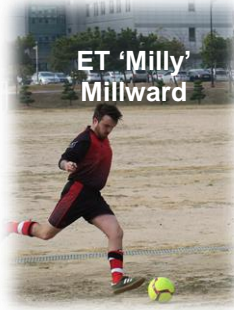
HMS ENTERPRISE Vs RoKN DAE CHEON

Whilst some of our shipmates were off skiing on Christmas Eve, HMS ENTERPRISE organised a football match against our host ship, the Republic of Korea Navy's corvette DAE CHEON.

The game kicked off at 10am after a welcoming hand shake and cap exchange. A manic opening 10 minutes ensued, the first attack of the game proving fruitful for RoKN as they took the lead inside four minutes following a slick passing move. Their advantage was short lived however, as moments later an exquisite strike from outside the box found the top corner. This kicked ENTERPRISE into gear and they began to take a hold of the game.



Lt Cdr Mai McCallum takes a breather after a strong 5 mins



ET 'Milly' Millward

The visiting side spurned several good opportunities before AB Carruthers managed to finish off a menacingly whipped cross from skipper AB Cox to take the lead. ENTERPRISE continued their dominance into the second half, however struggled to extend their lead. Persistence finally paid off when in the 70th minute a lucky slice off AB Larkman's left foot once again found the top corner.

RoKN fought back gallantly, provoking several athletic saves from goalkeeper Hastings and a goal line clearance from PO Richmond to keep the survey ship's lead intact. Finally a goal, rifled in from 25 yards with 5 minutes left, ensuring a chaotic finish to the game RoKN strived for the equaliser. This allowed Man-of-the-Match AB Cox to counter, skipping past several players before calmly placing the ball in back of the net to secure a hard fought but well deserved 4-2 victory for the away side.

AB J CARRUTHERS

PIZZA IN SINGAPORE

On Saturday 18 April ENTERPRISE enjoyed a whole ship Pizza evening thanks to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC).

The event was held on the Vertrep deck allowing us to enjoy an al fresco dinner in the balmy Singapore evening.

The event was part of an initiative by the RNRMC to support RN and RM personnel who have been affected by the COVID pandemic.

In our case, the evening gave the opportunity for the ship's company to relax and indulge in takeaway food for the last time before proceeding to sea after a very busy maintenance period and watch handover took place.

On behalf of everyone in HMS ENTERPRISE massive thanks to the RNRMC for their kind donation, and for everything they do!

LT C VOYSEY RN



STD Marco Richards digging into pizza under the watchful eye of Lt 'Shady' Lane RN



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A Good Looking Ships Company

COs GOODBYE

The COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly been challenging for all of us, but especially for those of you back home. I'd like you all to be reassured that every effort is being made to regain our programme stability and, that for the foreseeable future, our watch rotation periods will be extended from 10 week periods away, to nearly 14 weeks away. This is to allow us the time to isolate personnel who are returning to the ship and to minimise the inadvertent risk of the spread of the virus.

We must all make every effort to ensure that we all remain safe at all times. Many of you have important roles in health care, teaching and let's not forget as parents trying to home school. There are countless other roles which I have not mentioned but ones which we all heavily rely on. Thank you all for being there for us, and for being so supportive.

We will continue to work hard to minimise risk of exposure to the virus to keep the ship "clean" so that your family members are safe onboard and safe to return home to you all.

Finally, a huge thanks once again to all who contributed to this newsletter, an even bigger thanks to you all at home. This is very much our first version and we'd welcome feedback from our families and friends. In fact we'd welcome your input too, this includes the children out there. What's it like having your parent/uncle/aunt/cousin/sibling away? If you have any editorial experience, that'd also be welcome too! Anything goes (within reason)!

Stay safe, take care, #BoldlyGo,

Cecil