

## HMS ENTERPRISE – SPRING NEWSLETTER

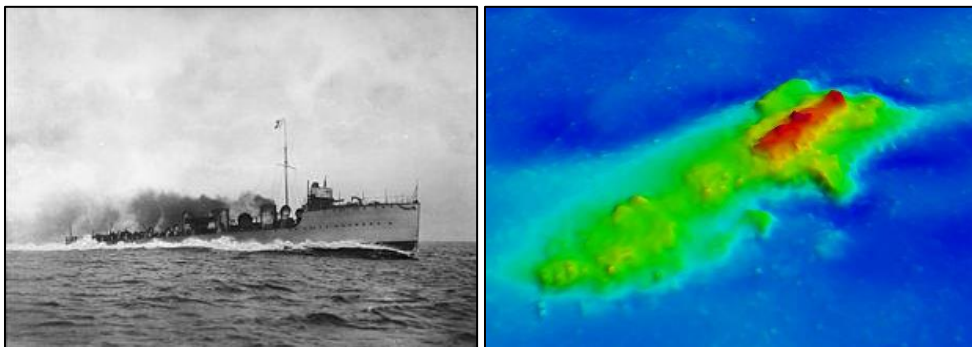
Contrary to popular TV culture, spring is coming and after 3 months of operations around the UK coast, ENTERPRISE is ready for some good weather. With Christmas now well and truly behind us, and Easter over the horizon, the first few months of 2019 have certainly flown by and has seen us operate from Dover up to the Outer Hebrides, doing our piece for our nation. Here's a brief update on what we've been up to.

We sailed from Scotland in January to conduct maritime security operations off Dover. Acting as the Royal Navy's contribution to counter illegal migration, we delivered a visible presence detecting and deterring people trying to cross this busy and challenging stretch of water.



*Working with our colleagues from UK Border Force and National Crime Agency.*

Throughout our time on station, no migrant crossings were attempted however, we did manage to hone our survey skills when we conducted a wreck investigation of HMS GHURKA. HMS GHURKA was a first world war era Tribal class light destroyer which sunk on 8 Feb 1919 after striking a mine suspected to have been laid by a U-boat only five crew members survived, 74 lives were lost.

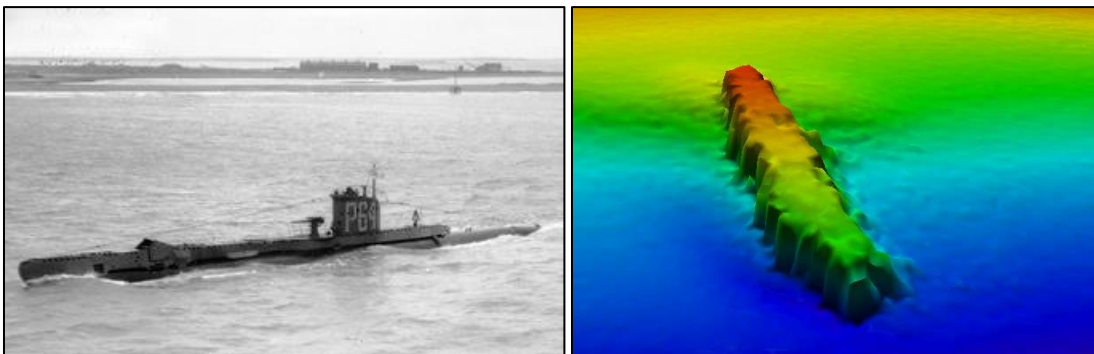


*Online image of HMS GHURKA and image obtained from wreck investigation using our EM710 Multibeam Echo Sounder*

After this brief period on national tasking, we stopped over in Portsmouth for our watch handover. During this time we hosted a number of visitors including our Ship's sponsor, Lady Sally Forbes. We also hosted Commodore Graham Little, the Deputy Chief Naval Engineering Officer, who presented our Communications Department with the Fleet Communications Effectiveness Trophy. This was awarded to the team as a result of the hard work and dedication to maintaining our communications networks during last year's NATO deployments.

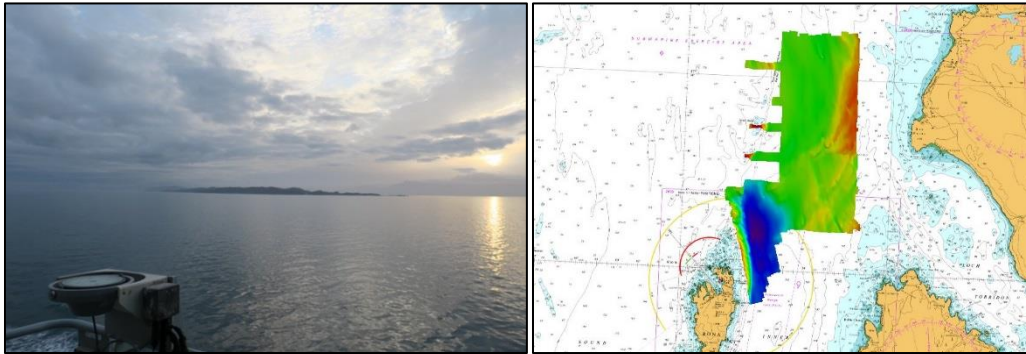


On departing from Portsmouth to our Scottish survey grounds, we had to take shelter from some particularly fierce weather off the Isle of Arran. During this pause in the transit the ship conducted a wreck investigation of HMS VANDAL (P64). The Royal Navy U-class submarine built by Vickers-Armstrong at Barrow-in-Furness, number 838 was lost on 24 Feb 1943 with all 37 on-board just four days after commissioning. The submarine had the shortest career of any Royal Navy submarine. Although this was a chartered wreck, the least depth was not known; enter HMS ENTERPRISE! Using the data gathered, we were able to report back to the UK Hydrographic Office in order to update the chart with an update on how proud the wreck sat above the seabed.



*Online image of HMS VANDAL and image obtained from wreck investigation using our EM710 Multibeam Echo Sounder*

The majority of this period has been spent surveying off the island of Rona, just north of the Isle of Skye. This may seem a random area, but it is an important area for training and offered us the opportunity to bring our survey experience back up to scratch after some considerable time away from core survey duties.



View of Rona from sea and an image showing the area surveyed.

Not content to solely use traditional survey equipment, we also had the opportunity to proceed out to deeper water in order to trial an oceanographic glider. This piece of equipment allows us to collect oceanographic information which can later be used to inform how best to use our sonars for anything from submarine hunting to gathering bathymetric data. Knowledge of the chemical make-up of the water also helps us understand where features such as oceanographic fronts sit, and how they move over time affected by global environmental conditions. The glider itself was controlled remotely by the National Oceanographic Centre and was a demonstration of our ability to operate with other scientific organisations.



Oceanographic glider deployment from our seaboat.

We would not be able to do what we do if it wasn't for our people and your support. This month I was delighted to inform one of my Leading Medical Assistants that she was selected for the Naval Medical Director General's prize. Selected for her hard work and diligence over the last year, she was selected by a judging panel comprised of the great and good in the RN medical world. The award presentation will take place in the early autumn, but what an outstanding way to start 2019!

Following the harsh start to 2019 from a weather perspective, we're looking ahead to deploying to warmer climates this summer.