

HMS SCOTT PENGUIN POST

2021, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 2021

SURVEY SUCCESS

Welcome to the latest edition of the PP. SCOTT deployed from Plymouth in June, sailing south towards her survey grounds. The ship has slipped back into her summer pattern of 6 week crew rotations, with each watch completing 12 weeks at sea followed by 6 weeks of leave at home with friends and family.

Whilst many ships in the RN have remained in the UK due to COVID, ship's company have worked hard to get back out to sea and beyond UK territorial waters. Upon sailing south the ship had to conduct a calibration of the sonar equipment, this is known as a technical evaluation or TechEval and is carried out in conjunction with our US partners. After this, a brief 48hr stop in Gibraltar allowed for some crew downtime and the embarkation of 2 portable freezer containers. Then, at last, SCOTT was en-route to the survey grounds.

Good weather in our area of operations has allowed good progress with surveying, so far this summer SCOTT has surveyed approximately 150,000nm², roughly the size of Spain. With plenty more surveying to be done before we head to Gibraltar for our maintenance period, SCOTT is on course to complete her most successful summer of surveying ever. Of course this is all testament to the hard work of ship's company.

Next up, SCOTT herself is in need of some rest and recuperation. We'll be visiting Gibraltar again soon to complete a maintenance package and to give the old girl some love and attention, both in the machinery spaces and aesthetically on the upperdeck. After that there is always more to be surveyed and with COVID travel restrictions easing slowly, hopefully some more exotic runs ashore lie in wait.

LS Blake





CAN YOU SMELL WHAT THE ROCK IS COOKING?

Admittedly, I was stuck for an amusing title here but if anything, it's an ode to the numerous restaurants in Gibraltar. After 6 weeks at sea, the crew were in much need of a run shore, this time it wasn't Falmouth but a true Matelot staple; Gibraltar. This would be the first foreign(ish) run ashore in over a year for the ship but also for most of the Royal Navy.

The Rock has some wonderful beaches that look out onto the beautiful waters of the Straits of Gibraltar where the Med and the Atlantic meet. Many enjoyed paddle boarding or swimming but some just took the opportunity to relax on the beach and top up their already bronze tan.

With many hungry sailors to feed, restaurants are aplenty, serving anything from English pub classics to Spanish tapas or Mediterranean seafood, it is often said there is a restaurant in Gibraltar for every night of the year. Of course the nightlife scene is crucial to a successful run ashore and with bars on every corner, from cellar rum bars to bars that look over the spectacular marina in Ocean Village, 'Gib' does not disappoint. As if it couldn't get any better, Morrison's supermarket was a frequent haunt for those wishing to stock up for the next leg at sea.

To finish off a perfect day, many made their way up The Rock to watch the beautiful sunset with the monkeys at their side. It truly is Matelot heaven.

Needless to say it wasn't all eating and drinking; the traditional 'Rock Run' took place early in the morning to beat the day's heat. This is a gruelling test of fitness and stamina which often sees even the fittest fall foul of the steep inclines and relentless sun.

A BBQ brought the whole ships company together at the nearby water sports centre in the naval base where the Operations Officer's meat brought a smile to everyone's face. The opportunity for some adventurous training arose when a RIB was hired from the centre with people keen to try wakeboarding and ringo-riding for the first time. All in all a great visit with plenty on the agenda, 5 green blobs on Trip Advisor, would go back (which is fortunate).

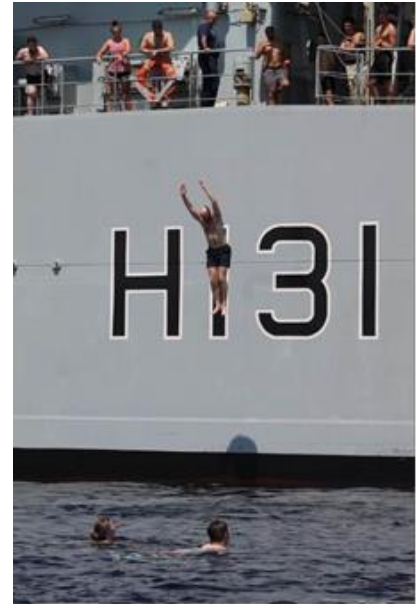
AB Dewey



LET'S GET PHYSICAL, PHYSICAL....

The summer legs have not only been great for data collection, they have also been a fantastic opportunity for some whole-ship fun and games. Since we departed our homeport of Plymouth back in early June, daily exercise circuits have been a popular addition to the programme, allowing our ship's company to top up their tans all whilst burning calories. As well as this, Wednesday afternoon sport highlighted the fantastic teamwork of SCOTT's sailors, with groups battling over games of rounders, quick cricket and of course the Navy's famed bucket-ball.

As per newly formed SCOTT tradition, the weekend is now kicked off by the Medical Officer's Friday night quiz, resulting in some brilliant and some not so brilliant scores. However, most importantly the quiz has produced some top notch team names. Saturday nights have seen the return of a favourite, the fancy dress BBQ. Each week a new theme, each week a new selection of ingenious costumes, from American heroes to fancy dress classics, Scott's foredeck has seen them all. The introduction of a Sunday morning whole ship standeasy in the wardroom has seen countless wets and sweet treats consumed and has provided a great opportunity for the Senior Rates to spread their stories about the "good old days", needless to say a weekend on board isn't one you would forget in a hurry.



As summer comes to an end, we go out with a bang. Since sailing from the wonderful Madeira, whole ship Cluedo has proved incredibly exciting. Some outstanding detective work and lots of cunning plays have seen some shocking 'deaths', but only one player shall be victorious. SCOTT's rendition of the TV game show Taskmaster has resulted in some fabulous creativity, with each round being both simple yet tricky and providing everyone with some top tier morale. Finally, to top off a busy summer season, an Atlantic 'Hands to Bathe' went down a treat. Ship's company showed off their wide array of diving abilities, with some being much more graceful than others.

AB Haddock



CREW GO MAD FOR MADEIRA

Whilst alongside in Madeira, ship's company enjoyed many of the activities and delights that the island has to offer, be that adventures across the island or delicious sea food right in Funchal. In the first 2 days alongside we ventured up into the mountains to experience the thrills of mountain biking and apart from a few cuts and scrapes, against all odds everyone returned in one piece. We returned the next day with a tough early morning hike and were suitably rewarded with a breath taking sunrise over the island with the distant Atlantic Ocean strewn across the horizon. A group also enjoyed a round of 18 holes on a golf course perched on the mountainside which offered beautiful views of Funchal and the surrounding area. Apart from a few bruised egos, the round was enjoyed by all and culminated with the 19th hole clubhouse bar overlooking the ship in the bay.

A few of the more adventurous members of ship's company took off in hire cars to explore the island; many found a rare black sandy beach hidden away in a cove on the north coast, some headed west to wander the islands many idyllic fishing villages. Those who didn't fancy venturing as far could enjoy the thrills of racing through the streets of Funchal on the wicker basket toboggan run. Starting high up in Funchal this 2km run saw sailors sitting comfortably in a wicker basket on a sledge that the locals guided through the twisting streets using only their shoes. The Funchal Botanical gardens provided a quick getaway to a sub-tropical paradise if some relief from the bustling streets was needed. The island of Madeira also offered ample exquisite dining experiences. Many took full advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the local cuisine of freshly caught Scabbard fish (Google it) and the world famous Madeira Wine.

SLt Smith



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If you feel like you can't get enough SCOTT action in your life, keep up to date with all the goings on by following our Twitter account: @HMSScottRN

To receive updates, events, news and family support offers, join our HMS SCOTT Community as part of the Royal Navy Family and People Support page on Facebook.

If you'd like to get in touch with a query or comment you can contact our Families Officer, Lt Richard Keay RN:

HMSSCTT-War-OOW1@mod.uk

To strive, to seek, to find... and not to yield.

HMS SCOTT
BFPO 381

