



We Remember Submariners Newsletter

Issue 06

Registered Charity of England & Wales 1176446

May 2020

On behalf of the Chairman and the trustees, we would like to thank you all for your continued generosity and support as We Remember Submariners (WRS) continues to mature as a charity.

Following the appointment to some key roles, the organisational structure of WRS is as follows:

Founder	John Bradbury	
Patron	Gill Molyneux	
Chairman	Ian Atkinson	
Vice Chairman	CPO David Smith	
Treasurer	Nigel Mellor	
Trustees:	Graham Bishop, David Wain, CPO Paul Foran, Nigel Mellor, Mick Dewhirst, James Dickaty, L/S Andrew Whyte, WO1 Steve Thorpe & Peter Fisher.	
Management Team	Terri Mellor	Shop Manager
	Sam McNeice	Crossing the Bar Manager
	Sarah McNeice	Public Relations Manager
	Rob Carr	Webmaster and IT Manager
	John Ireland	Membership Secretary
	Cecilia Gollop	Secretary

Membership

Membership to join We Remember Submariners opened on the 1st September 2019.

Already, there are over 800 members, so thank you for your valued support. For those who have as yet not joined, membership is entirely optional and will not affect anybody being able to purchase the annual pin, from the shop or outstations, when they become available. <https://we-remember-submariners.com/membership/wrs-membership>

Annual membership costs £10 for a full 12 months membership. For that, you will receive the 2020 pin (worth £5.50), when it becomes available, a member badge (worth £5.50) and 10% discount in the online shop (excluding the current yearly pin).



The 2020 pin features three gold poppies remembering WRS members who passed away in 2019 and a single blue heart in recognition of the NHS and key workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional 2020 pins will still be available at £5.50 each, through the online shop or regional outstations.



World Pay Cards Accepted
Debit or Credit Cards



We Remember Submariners uses World Pay as an easier payment mechanism when paying for merchandise from the shop. Using this method allows us to accept Debit and Credit Cards. In addition, you can now order and pay for pins on line.

ARA San Juan

A total of £31,000 has been raised from generous donations including the sale of a special pin, the sale of a rugby shirt and donations from Ocean Infinity and Barrow SA for the families of the 44 submariners that sadly died aboard the Argentinian submarine in November 2017.

We Remember Submariners are proud to announce that following many months of dealing with bureaucratic difficulties, this money has now been transferred to all of the families of the crew of ARA San Juan. This has been a gargantuan effort by many individuals and has cemented the relationship between our two countries.

88 of the pictured ARA San Juan pins have also now arrived in Argentina, two of which are being gifted to each of the families of the 44 crew members.

As Chairman, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all those who made this possible, both in the UK and in Argentina. We will remember them. BZ



Gold Poppy Qualification Criteria

Historically, there has been some confusion on exactly who qualifies for a gold poppy on the annual pin and what is the qualification period.

To qualify for a gold poppy on the 2021 pin, for example, the recipient will have sadly passed away between 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2020.

They will have been a serving UK submariner or a WRS member who was also a submarine veteran. In addition, we can only act on information received, so We Remember Submariners will need to have been informed of their passing, during the qualification period.

For example:

Serving UK submariner	Gold Poppy
WRS Member & UK submarine veteran	Gold Poppy
Submarine veteran	No Gold Poppy
Civilian	No Gold Poppy

Recent Beneficiaries

- The Submariner Memorial Fund Appeal
- HMS Neptune Field Gun Team
- The families of the ARA San Juan



The Submariner Memorial Appeal

Anyone who ever has visited the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas Staffordshire might have wondered why the submarine service is so under represented, when just about every uniformed service in the country has a fitting memorial to honour their fallen.

This is about to change. A charity has recently been set up raise money to design, construct and install a lasting memorial to submariners who died in service and their families.

There is a competition currently running to design a fitting monument which commemorates the sacrifice of all those who have died whilst in the submarine service. It will ultimately be a place to visit for private and collective acts of remembrance and reflection, and they need your help to design it.

For further information, please visit <https://www.submarinermemorial.uk/>

Registered Charity Number 1186809



ARA San Juan

Following a magnificent effort, involving WRS, the Royal Navy, the Argentine Navy and several retired officers and men, WRS are proud to announce that a total of £31000 has been distributed to the families of the 44 crew members that sadly died aboard the submarine ARA San Juan.



The pictures show signatures from the grateful families and also the sister of the only female casualty of the tragedy and an Army officer who is attached to the British Embassy in Argentina.

Well done all involved.



Annual General Meeting

The Second AGM of We Remember Submariners took place at the Ullesthorpe Court Hotel in Leicestershire LE17 5BZ on Saturday 8th February 2020.

It was well attended by trustees, the management team, some area coordinators, and a handful of members and provoked a lively, but well-humoured discussion on many topics.

The minutes of the AGM are available online at <https://we-remember-submariners.com/images/AGM/wrs-agm-minutes-08-02-2020.pdf>

The date of the next AGM has been provisionally booked for Saturday 20th February 2021. WRS Members are permitted to attend on a first come, first served basis. Details will be published once they are finalised.

Harry Melling's 100th Birthday

Harry Melling was born in Wigan on 18th April 1920 and joined the Royal Navy in 1939 serving as a Torpedoman aboard HM Submarines Osiris and Tuna, throughout the Second World War.

Harry became known to the Wigan Borough Armed Forces HQ (WBAFHQ) following an appalling incident at his home in Oct 2017 when he was mugged and viciously assaulted on his doorstep, aged 97. Despite being injured & traumatised Harry, assisted by his great nephew Matthew, met Prince William at the Submarine November ceremonies in London later that year. Harry's London trip was supported by money raised by submariners at the Clyde Submarine Base. Harry Melling is now a regular attendee at the WBAFHQ.

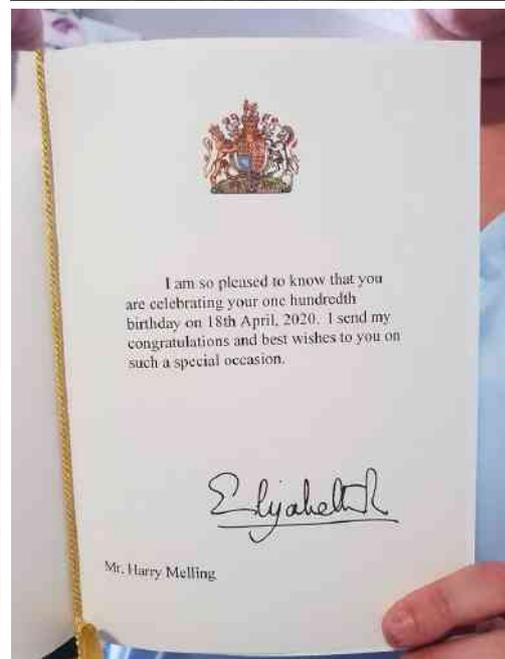
To celebrate Harry's 100th birthday, on 18th April this year, a party was organised by WBAFHQ for Harry and Army veteran, Bernard White, a mere sprog at 99 years of age. Many former & serving submariners were invited, including Cdre Jim Perks and WO Andy Knox. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the joint party has had to be postponed for later in the year.

Spearheaded by retired submarine Cdr Charlie Neve, the WBAFHQ intend to hold a belated birthday party for Harry and Bernard. WBAFHQ will fund the party including a guest WW2-style singer providing the entertainment and also a generous £150 donation from the Merseyside SA. The local media will be invited to cover the party as well as Navy News and BFBS.

As well as receiving a card from Her Majesty The Queen and a commemoration gift of his two submarines from SUBFLOT, Commodore Steve Dearden, a retired submarine engineer, now President of Rolls-Royce Submarines Ltd, also wrote to Harry, congratulating him on reaching his 100th birthday.

Later in the year, his great nephew, Matthew, a keen runner, intends to involve Harry in another fund-raising event.

WRS would like to wish Harry a very happy 100th birthday.



The Silent South Africans

by WRS member Capt John Lamont SAN retired

As a non-RN submariner but from a navy that has its roots firmly in the RN I would like to commend the article featured at the following web-page:

<https://samilhistory.com/2019/04/28/the-silent-south-africans-in-the-silent-service/>

I joined *We Remember Submariners* particularly in remembrance of those daring young men who took to the new and challenging technology of submarining, and particularly those with a South African connection. South Africa in those early days was part of the British Empire but without a navy of its own, the participation was logically in the RN. The first naval units in South Africa were the *Natal Naval Volunteers* a Naval Artillery Volunteer unit formed with the concerns about Russian expansionism during the late Victorian era.

On 30 March 1885 Russian troops attacked and defeated the Afghan soldiers manning fortified frontier positions at Pendjeh. This violation of the buffer zone between Russia and India brought England and Russia to the brink of war. Although there were coast defence batteries at Cape Town and Simon's Town, there were none at Durban and the townspeople feared that a Russian cruiser might bombard or capture the port or hold it to ransom. This led to a group of residents in Durban to form the Natal Naval Volunteers, a Naval Artillery Unit.

Following the Second Anglo Boer war, two Divisions amalgamated to become the RNVR (SA) members of which saw service at sea on RN vessels and in France in the RN Division during WW1. As you will see in the article, various people with a South African connection either joined the Royal Navy or volunteered for service in the RN and then served in the new submarine service.

Having joined the SA Navy in 1966 and volunteering for submarine service when the SAN started its own submarine service in 1968 I became interested in the role of submarines in South African history. Because of political circumstances the submarines were obtained from France, but with no submarine expertise, the SAN recruited a number of former RN personnel which coincidentally was at a time when the Royal Navy was downsizing that brought both of the submarine services together.

In 1989 I became involved in the preparation for 30th Anniversary celebration of the South African Navy Submarine Service and ended up editing a commemorative book for the occasion. I was surprised to find that General (later Field Marshall) Jan Smuts intended to form a navy for South Africa in 1917 that would include submarines. During WW2 the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans were the scene of submarines from Britain, the USA and the Netherlands but more importantly by Germany, Italy, Japan and Vichy France, a fact that is often overlooked.

I retired from the South African Navy in 2008 but continued to serve in the SAN Reserve until 2015 giving me 49 years service. I hope that this has not bored you, but I felt it may be of interest to your members. In the photograph, I am 3rd from the left.

I wish all members of WRS a safe outcome in this time of stress.

Capt John Lamont SAN ret

glentyne@yebo.co.za



We Remember Submariners are delighted to be supported by the following companies:



In Other News

If you have recently discovered We Remember Submariners, you may be interested to learn that back – issues of the 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019 pin are still available from the [shop](#), priced at £5.50 per pin. Each pin comes with a certificate of authenticity and lists the recipients of the gold and red poppies for that year. Unfortunately the 2012, 2013, 2014, 2018 and the ARA San Juan pins are all sold out.



Outstations

Faslane	David Wynne
Barrow in Furness	Pete Fisher
Abbeywood	Adrian Perry
Keynsham	Ian Atkinson
HMS Sultan	CPO Mike Woods
Plymouth	L/S Chalky Whyte
Plymouth	Nigel Thornber
HMS Raleigh	CPO Jakey Foran

COVID-19

As you are all aware, the COVID-19 situation is touching all of our lives in a way that most of us have never seen before. We are encouraged daily not to socialise or seek human physical contact, but, I wanted to reach out to you all and appeal to you to check on your friends, family, neighbours and former shipmates to see if they are ok.

As a submarine community, we pride ourselves on looking out for one another and not leaving our shipmates behind. It doesn't take much, a simple phone call, email, text message or contact them on social media to just say hello.

This is just a simple message just to let you know that should you feel the need, there is a service related organisation that can help with loneliness, hardship, mental wellbeing or bereavement. The Veterans Gateway can be reached on 0808 802 1212 or their website can be found at <https://www.veteransgateway.org.uk/>

At this time, as always, we should be looking after our own. Beating this virus is a going to be a long, hard battle, but working together, we can prevail.

My final message is this. Stay home, stay well, isolate yourself as much as you can and above all stay safe.

Ian Atkinson
Chairman



Between January and the end of April, at the time of publication, we have been informed of the following submariners that have sadly crossed the bar in 2020. Those qualifying for a gold poppy are emboldened in red:

Resurgam

Raymond	Edwards	06 January 2020	Jan	Serdecki	21 February 2020
Tim	Everard	05 January 2020	Tom 'Jonah'	Jones	09 March 2020
Brian	Wainwright	11 January 2020	John	Cooper	11 March 2020
Gary	Leafe (aka Dobson)	10 January 2020	Antony	Marvin	29 February 2020
Albert William	Birchnall	09 January 2020	Kevin	East	18 March 2020
Joseph	Dale	08 January 2020	Stefan	Vidak	19 March 2020
Peter 'Spam'	Hammersley	16 January 2020	Dave	Goodhead	23 March 2020
William Lesley 'Les'	Donnelly	10 January 2020	Ted	Hancock	23 March 2020
David	Lakeland	19 January 2020	Bruce	Arnold	28 March 2020
Richard	Watling	22 January 2020	George	Fleming	30 March 2020
Thomas Stewart	Fell	17 January 2020	Dave 'Tom'	King	02 April 2020
Terry 'Darby'	Allen	18 January 2020	Bill	Caravan	30 March 2020
Roger	Chapman	24 January 2020	George	Doughty	06 April 2020
Anthony 'Tony'	Braddick	22 January 2020	Francis	Myles Thompson	06 April 2020
Fred	Read	24 January 2020	William "TUG"	Wilson	14 April 2020
Paul	Mitchell	26 January 2020	George	Robertson	16 April 2020
Martin 'Spider'	Webb	26 January 2020	James Leslie	West	20 April 2020
Gwilym	Williams	29 January 2020	Derek	Douglas	15 April 2020
Walter	Maddock	01 February 2020	George	Bell	22 April 2020
Dave	Ralph	03 February 2020	Gerald	Lloyd Williams	23 April 2020
John 'Jan'	Spidy	06 February 2020	John Ramon	Ridout	24 April 2020
Fred	Jenkins	09 February 2020	Alan	Jupp	25 April 2020
Matthew	Todd	10 February 2020	Ray	Bulimore	23 April 2020
Roland	Watkinson	11 February 2020	John 'Curly'	Howard	24 April 2020
Alan	Scourfield	07 February 2020	Ted	Bartlett	30 April 2020
Arthur 'Jess'	Owen	14 February 2020			
David 'Jess'	Owen	24 February 2020			
G C	Pole-Carew	28 February 2020			
George	Maries	01 March 2020			
William 'Pusser'	Hill	29 February 2020			
Tim	Marshall	18 February 2020			
Michael 'Mickey'	Dack	04 March 2020			
Phil 'Ginge'	Cotton	19 February 2020			
Toby	Frere	05 March 2020			

We Remember Submariners would like to offer their sincere condolences to the friends and families of the bereaved and our apologies for any errors or omissions. Whilst we strive for accuracy, to err is human. The dates listed are when WRS were informed of the bereavement and may differ slightly from the actual date.

Please let us know if any of the information is incorrect and we will endeavour to correct it.

... and finally

2021 Pin

As most of you will know and appreciate, the We Remember Submariners annual pin has become a collectors item. The convention for the design of the pin over the last 6 years has been governed by a number of factors:

- Red Poppies to remember submarines lost 100 years ago.
- Gold poppies to remember qualifying members that crossed the bar during 2020.
- The submarine 'Dolphins'
- The year of issue. (2021)
- The total number of known UK submariners that crossed the bar during 2020.
- 'We Remember Submariners'

Unfortunately, there was a single submarine lost in 1921. K5 was lost on 20th January 1921 with the loss of all of the 57 crew members, so the 2021 pin will feature a single red poppy.

I know there are many imaginative and artistic designers amongst our members, so I invite you all to suggest design ideas for the 2021 pin.

As a design idea, a WRS member has submitted the following image.

Please submit ideas by email to chairman@we-remember-submariners.com



Thank you

Please contact us by [email](#) if you have any suggestions, articles or ideas for inclusion in the Newsletter.

If anyone has any newsworthy items, requests for funding, new fund raising ideas, or you would like to publicise any We Remember Submariners fund-raising events, please click on the link to send them, with details and any photographs to [Ian Atkinson](#)

For all other questions, the contact details can be found on the [website](#), by clicking the link or by visiting <https://we-remember-submariners.com/charity-information/wrs-the-charity/contact-us>

Many thanks for your continued support

Kind regards

Ian Atkinson

Chairman



We Remember Submariners

<https://we-remember-submariners.com>

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