

# H.M.S. SUPERB (CRUISER) ASSOCIATION

## A MAGAZINE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP

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N° 1



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## Editorial

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This e-magazine is distributed in an effort to inform the membership, or at least those members whose email addresses I have, of the day-to-day on-line happenings which concern the Association.

It is not intended to replace the Chairman's Newsletters which will still be sent out by post four times a year as usual.

It has seemed to me by the activity seen on line mainly on the Facebook page that ex shipmates are interested in, and like to be informed ,of the goings on of those long lost friends from their service days.

Therefore in an effort to appraise you of the cries for help from relatives and shipmates who have an interest in the cruiser Superb whether it be for the purpose of sending in photos or trying to trace old friends this magazine hopefully, will assist.

Over time you should be able to see, in these pages, decent photos and hopefully some input by members. This first edition is not that full but it should improve as time goes by and a most important factor is YOUR IMPUT

In the meantime may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy 2017



*Brian Saunders*

# Andy Brierley's Blog

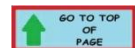
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On joining Ganges Annexe the pre-navy boarding schools Holbrook, St. Vincent and Arethusa became know to me. Boys from each were in my intake. Most numerous were 'Ari Boys', who came with a prestige and élan all of their own. Arethusa, 1911, built a four-masted barque of 3000 tons and was a Barnado's Home that turned out a hefty slice of boy seamen for the R.N..

Laying on buoys off Upnor, just across the river Medway from Chatham Dockyard, most of us must have seen at least her masts and yards on the skyline.

When closed years later, it was acquired for a sea park near New York. Prior to its Atlantic tow I bullied my way into Sheerness civilian dockyard for a last look. All ports had blanks welded over and yards struck. Thought that would be the last I would see of her. Several years later, at twilight, Jo and I were looking for a place to eat - there, in front of us, lay an oblivious Arethusa, but now named Peking, and falling into dereliction, in dire need of care and attention, for me a sad and disturbing sight.

I learnt it was up for disposal, possibly to a New Jersey breakers. Fast forward several years to 2016 - it has been gifted to the German Government. It will re-cross the Atlantic on a heavy lift vessel destined for a delighted Hamburg where she was built by Blohm & Voss. Their intention to lavish TLC upon her is a heart warming conclusion - I may yet see her again.



I smile when thinking about stories told about life on board for the boys. They all slept in hammocks, not lashed to rigid bars as normal but on long Jack Stays, which meant that when one chap turned over a couple of dozen others sprang up and down in unison; likewise, if an individual needed a 'heads visit'. This going on all night was cited as the reason Ari Boys could sleep through any bombardment.

On the local preservation scheme is President, towed down from the Thames Embankment, its home for countless years, into Chatham civilian dockyard. One of only three WW1 vessels still in existence, and it saw active service.

It is destined for breaking for want of a couple of grand and a berth, cannot get in to see it. This - when a stone's throw away from what is billed as World Heritage Site' of the nation's navy.

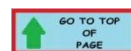
It would make a splendid home for Kent's Sea Cadets - Sea Scouts etc. if Health and Safety kept their dead hands in their pockets, those kids would give a re-birth. It could possibly become the country's finest youth club!

I dislike the word 'gobsmacked' bit it may fit the feeling I have on learning Lord Kinnock is a patron of Save the Illustrious Movement.

This is the 'Noble Lord' who vehemently wished to scrap that house with its perquisites and privileges! (until he became a member) Does he see some cash for himself in the 'Illustrious Caper'? already a millionaire from sucking on the E.U. teat whilst commissioner for stamping out; fraud, corruption and graft. Did he ever achieve results worthy of note whilst enrolling wife, son and daughter on the payroll that auditors have refused to sign off, for twenty years plus.

The Good Book says 'by their deeds you shall know them'. You can assured 'Illustrious' is not razor blades!

If the city fathers of Plymouth town, who are currently setting up a Maritime Museum' could not save the frigate 'Plymouth', which had a Falkland active pedigree, for want of a berth in the enormous complex, one can only despair.



A ship gaining attention last month was R.F.A. Diligence 'paid off' without fanfare. An ex-oil industry service vessel, able to dynamically position alongside a casualty in sea state three with every manner of repair assistance. Supposed to stay in service 'til 2020 following a major re-fit. Another example of M.O.D. scheduling.

This vessel was of inestimable value in the Falklands. Liverpool docks were a ghost site from end to end when I first saw her entering a dry dock there 'Canada dock 11, bottom had scrape, R.N. radios and radar fitted, a coat of Pusser grey applied, then off to war, a brilliant example of 'value for money'. This could be repeated, knowing Maersk, a major oil industry contractor whose work has dried up, is disposing of 20 (twenty) far younger, similar vessels with state of the art machinery and modern workshops. It is beyond doubt a fair proportion of these vessels will go for scrapping, heaven sent opportunity for the procurement agency to get a fantastic deal on a vessel of worth.

The duo of wind breaks alongside Rosyth (super carriers) evidently require a quartet of longish, wide brows of pleasing aspect. Our sceptered isle seems to be awash with small fabrication shops who, I think, would do back flips for the contract. They are to be designed, built in Holland by Veroef, a company who produce super quality to budget, but --- 'why?' one is forced to ask.

Who the hell is teaching our kids anything about 'on time, on budget'?



Are we surprised the much vaunted Global Frigate Type 26 is to be two later than planned - reason- not yet designed. Project bogged down by bureaucrats and placemen of M.O.D. who constantly asphyxiate projects at birth. It is interesting to know that the defence budget of £32.8 billion is £6 billion more than France who fields 72000 more personnel, 51 more 'A list jets', bigger fleet with

'nuclear carrier' carrying proper strike squadrons. 2000 more armoured vehicles. Own independent nuke deterrents - ours - does what the U.S. allows it to do.

Back to the M.O.D.! whose press release, last week, for the type 26 (quote) 'most advanced ship on the planet' - makes one gasp.

But wait a moment, wife just gave me an article approx. 9" x 12" which says the electrical infrastructure at 'Pompey', being 80 years old will be able to power up the new £6 billion carriers when alongside.

Looks like it's back to candles shipmates - but- as ever, there is an upside. Any helos or planes involved with those vessels will be paraffin burners, no 100 octave vapours wafting around like days of yore, phew! the naked flame will be okay.

I feel like I've gone on too long now, but would like to voice this before we part: The Royal New Zealand navy is hosting an International Fleet Review to mark the 75th anniversary of being spawned from the Royal Navy. 15 nations are booked to attend with 25 vessels. (Great Britain - nil). What a bloody embarrassment and shame on us!!

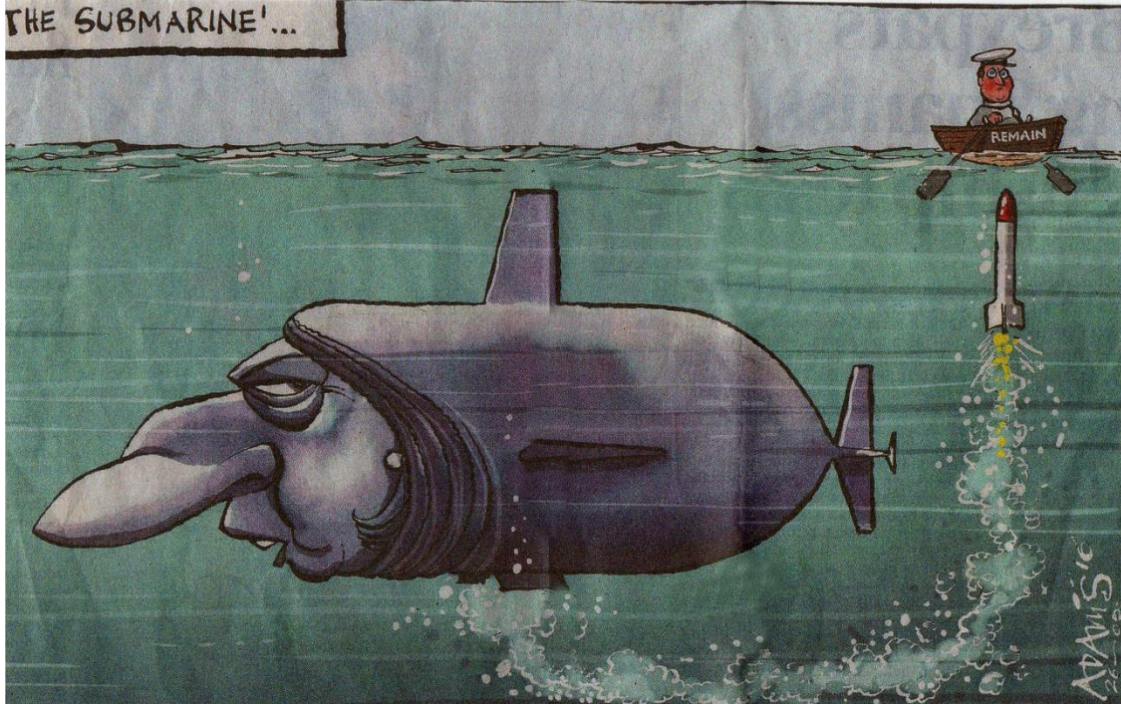
When the Falklands war started The Very First Friend to openly declare aid and assistance, 'within the hour' with her at sea frigate was .... New Zealand.

I think the 'red' has run out so I shall have to cease. It lubricates one's quill arm and prevents depression at the state of things. May Santa fill your stockings with all those expensive rabbits you think you deserve, and, Keep breathing! We have a reunion to attend come October.



This from "Telegraph" when "MAY" sanctioned new Polaris!

THE SUBMARINE!...



This are from "TIMES" last Sunday.

I SAW A ROYAL NAVY WARSHIP  
BUT NOBODY BELIEVES ME



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# A request from Debbie Richardson who found our Association on the web

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Some of you ancient mariners may well be interested in the photos sent in by the daughter of ex Petty Officer (Stores) Bill Potticary who served on board during the 1946 cruise when the ship was involved in the famous "Corfu Incident". Considering this was just after the end of the 2nd World War a peek at the Christmas Day menu illustrates the need of we matelots have to preserve Great British traditions.

If there's anyone out there who would like to get in touch with Bill please contact us in the first instance.

Incidentally it would be good if anyone knows the whereabouts of Pete Sharland who was one of Bill's oppos.







More of Bill's photos can be viewed on our website at [www.hmssuperb.co.uk](http://www.hmssuperb.co.uk) and look for 1943-49 photos

## Christmas Dinners from the past

### Menu

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**Breakfast**

Shredded Wheat      Eggs and Bacon  
Rolls and Butter      Marmalade  
Tea      Coffee

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**Dinner**

Cream of Tomato      Boiled Ham  
Roast Turkey      **Stuffing**  
Roast Potatoes      Cauliflower      Brussels Sprouts  
Christmas Pudding and Custard Sauce  
Dates      Apples      Oranges      Figs  
Ice Cream

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**Tea**

Bread and Butter      Jam  
Christmas Cake

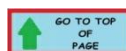
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**Supper**

Giblet Soup  
Cold Roast Pork      Pickles  
Mince Pies      Cheese and Biscuits

"ROUND THE WORLD IF NEED BE"

Arrive	Place	Leave
2nd Jan.	Chatham	1st Jan.
16th Jan.	Portland	16th Jan.
19th Jan.	Plymouth	16th Jan.
25th Jan.	Gibraltar	22nd Jan.
4th Mch.	Malta	2nd Mch.
8th Mch.	Gibraltar	4th Mch.
18th Mch.	Greenock	18th Mch.
21st Mch.	Belfast	21st Mch.
11th Apl.	Greenock	7th Apl.
15th Apl.	Gibraltar	12th Apl.
29th Apl.	Malta	26th Apl.
6th May	Trieste	6th May
9th May	Venice	9th May
15th May	Trieste	13th May
25th May	Corfu	24th May
2nd June	Malta	30th May
26th June	Haifa	23rd June
30th June	Malta	28th June
4th July	Gibraltar	1st July
16th Aug.	Chatham	15th Aug.
2nd Sep.	Portland	1st Sep.
5th Sep.	Portsmouth	5th Sep.
13th Sep.	Portland	10th Sep.
2nd Nov.	Invergordon	29th Oct.
21st Nov.	Portland	20th Nov.
29th Nov.	Antwerp	28th Nov.
11th Dec.	Portland	10th Dec.
	Chatham	





H.M.S. SUPERB

## *Menu*

### BREAKFAST

Grapefruit  
Bacon, Sausage & Egg  
Roll & Butter, Marmalade

### DINNER

Cream of Tomato Soup  
Roast Turkey & York Ham  
Bread Sauce  
Sausage Meat Stuffing  
Roast Potatoes  
Brussels Sprouts & Green Peas  
Christmas Pudding & Rum Sauce  
Fruit                  Nuts

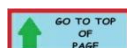
### TEA

Pears  
Christmas Cake  
Strawberry Jam

### SUPPER

Giblet Soup  
Cold Roast Pork  
Cole Slaw & Pickles  
Mince Pies  
Coffee

CHRISTMAS DAY, 1954



XMAS 1956



H.M.S. SUPERB  
MENU

*Breakfast*

Grapefruit  
Bacon, Egg and Tomatoes  
Rolls Coffee Marmalade

*Dinner*

Cream of Tomato Soup  
Roast Turkey and York Ham  
Sausage and Onion Stuffing  
Roast Potatoes  
Brussels Sprouts, Green Peas  
Christmas Pudding and Brandy Sauce  
Fruit Nuts Dates

*Tea*

Jellied Fruit  
Christmas Cake

*Supper*

Giblet Soup  
Cold Roast Pork  
Pickles and Beetroot  
Cheese and Biscuits  
Mince Pies  
Coffee

Makes you hungry doesn't it !

THAT'S ALL FOR THIS EDITION.

