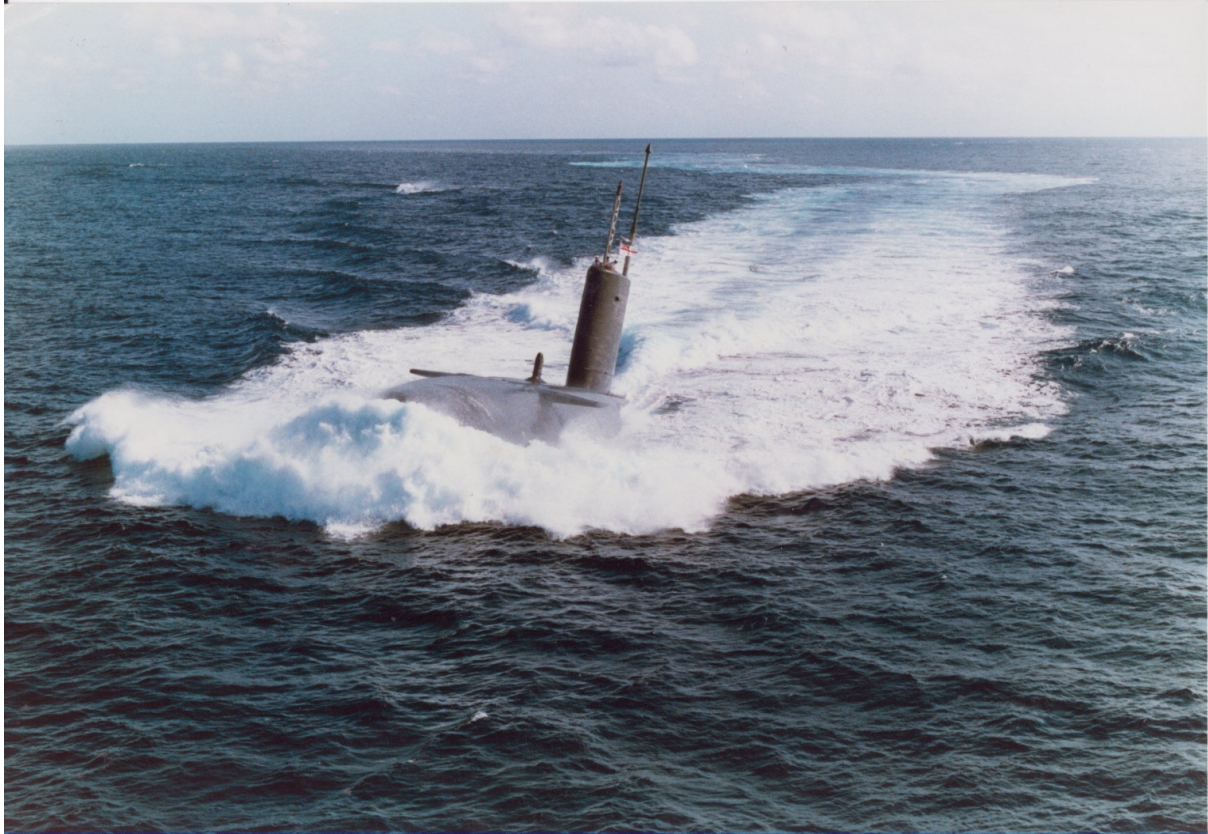




**THE COURAGEOUS NEWSLETTER  
CHRISTMAS 2011**



***“ON THE STEP”***





**TREASURER'S DIT  
(Roger PESCODD)**



Christmas and 2012 approaches and the Barrow Reunion is just around the corner. Morley Stephens also remarked (in a letter to me) "It does not seem two years ago we all met up in Plymouth". Also my retirement from the harbour approaches!

**Membership.** Please welcome the following new members:

293	Jim Henson	294	John Gillespie	295	David Blake
296	Alan Hobson	297	John McKnight	298	Arthur Dowse (Wrecker 2 then 1) Nov 80-Dec 83

If you would like to get in touch with any of our new members, please contact me.

**Reunion:** The Reunion booking form now includes a box for your e-mail address. This helps keep our records up to date-we still have the odd communication failure. We have 52 bookings to date and we await the usual after-Christmas rush.

Thank you to all those who have paid up the subs for this current year - there are some still outstanding. Please contact me if you are in any doubt. I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a very happy 2012. (Roger)

**THE 2012 REUNION - NOTES ON HOTELS IN BARROW**

**Lisdoonie Hotel:** 01229 827312  
**Hotel Majestic:** 01229 870448

**Duke of Edinburgh Hotel:** 01229 821039

**Victoria Park Hotel:** 01229 821159 This hotel will hold this year's prices of £60 for a double or twin and £35 to £45 for singles, including breakfast.

**The Travelodge:** 08719 846281. Offering a family room ( three persons) for £40. Ken Collins is in discussion with them regarding a reduction in cost and have contacted the committee regarding a 10% deposit they would require to hold 25 rooms.

Please contact these hotels directly (phone or internet). Anyone needing further help with hotels please contact Ken COLLINS by e-mail ([kc46@btinternet.com](mailto:kc46@btinternet.com) )

There is plenty of other accommodation available in Barrow and the tourist office will be delighted to help. Their address is:

Barrow Borough Council, Town Hall, Duke Street, Barrow-In-Furness, Cumbria, LA14 2LD, England, U.K.  
Tel: 01229 876505 Email: [touristinfo@barrowbc.gov.uk](mailto:touristinfo@barrowbc.gov.uk)

**THE "HOOKER"**

Ed and Nancy met on a singles cruise and Ed fell head over heels for her. When they discovered they lived only a few miles apart he was ecstatic and immediately asked her out when they got home. They went to dance clubs, restaurants, concerts, movies, and museums, and soon Ed was convinced that Nancy was his soul mate and true love. Every date seemed better than the last.

On the one-month anniversary of their first dinner on the cruise ship, Ed took Nancy to a fine restaurant. Over cocktails and waiting for their salad, Ed said, "I suppose you can tell I'm very much in love with you. I'd like a little serious talk before our relationship continues to the next stage. So, before I ask you a life- changing question, it's only fair to warn you, I'm a total golf nut - I play golf - I read about golf - I watch golf on TV. In short, I eat, sleep, and breathe golf. If that's going to be a problem for us, you'd better say so now!"

Nancy took a deep breath and responded, "Ed, that certainly won't be a problem. I love you as you are and I love golf too; but, since we're being totally honest with each other you need to know that for the last five years *I've been a hooker.*"

Ed said, *"I bet it's because you're not keeping your wrists straight when you hit the ball!"*

## THE 2012 REUNION IN BARROW (KEN COLLINS)

Final organisation is on-going for the 2012 Reunion here in Barrow in Furness. The Lisdoonie Hotel will do us proud with the meals and drink prices are reasonable.

Menu details are on the website.

The Barrow Submariners Association Rum Barrel will be deployed for the reunion, with the rum sold at a small profit for Association coffers. A raffle is also planned.

Regrettably the mooted HMS ONYX visit is off the plan. Too many issues with the Council and BAE Systems (mainly Health and Safety related).

Note: The Barrow Submariners Association have invested thousands of hours renovating the internals, repositioning equipment that was removed, and generally making her presentable but to no avail. ONYX may well be sold for scrap – sad.

The Lake District coach trip proposal did not attract sufficient takers so has been dropped..

The golf afternoon continues to be developed. So bring your golf clubs if interested.

The yard visit is being detailed with Brian Benn, BAE Visits Manager. The schedule time will be 0900 to 1100 on the Saturday and we are restricted to 20-30 visitors. We will need to supply names, nationality, addresses and an outline of any physical disabilities.

I will gauge the numbers when the final forms have been submitted and if necessary put the names in a hat if we are oversubscribed.

The meet and greet at the RBL will be Friday 13<sup>th</sup> from 1930/2000 till close of play  
Reunion Dinner is Saturday night 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> farewell drinks from 1100-ish

E-Mail address at present is [kc46@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kc46@hotmail.co.uk)  
I will keep you all further informed via the website.

Yours aye Ken (Jumper) Collins Tel: 01229 823454

## ABLE SEAMAN (RP3) RAYMOND HUTCHINS

At long last **A/B (RP3) Raymond Hutchins** (lost over board 1972) will finally have his name added to the Memorial Board at the Submarine Museum

Undoubtedly this was aided by Chris Munns, and is really excellent news.

Unfortunately, Raymond's name had not been included on the original board when it was officially opened about five years ago

## THE BRITISH MILITARY TATTOO (BY CHAS COOKE)

Just got back from the British Military Tournament - I was disappointed. Tickets weren't cheap but then it's for charity so I don't mind that- but it has changed into a high ranking officer's (or perhaps even a politician's) "time to tell them how good we are" show. To be honest, the idea failed because "it **told** me but it didn't **show** me".

There were almost more Yanks than Brits and it was all about the relationship between the US and the UK. The field gun is run by kids using half-sized guns and the bands were so small and so far up one end of the arena that they couldn't really be heard.

The few bits I really enjoyed were, to be honest, those bits that were kept in from the old style Royal Tournament, ie the Donkey Wallopers (Royal Horse Artillery), the White Helmets (M/Cycle display team, not a new STD) and the army clubswingers.

At least a third of the show was a pre-filmed projection onto a screen. Worst of all, not a matelot in sight!!! Even the displays around the outside were minimal. It was a pale shadow of the old Royal Tournament.

I saw people leaving early and probably only 3/4 of the seats were taken. What have they done? I still applaud the troops that took part but I shan't be going next year if they keep the same format. In total the tickets cost almost £80 for two of us, + travel and food means almost £200 spent. I feel very sad tonight. (Chas)

*(Editor's note:*

*If all these stories about the over-stretched RN are true I'm not surprised there were no matelots present.)*

## PLANS FOR THE ONLINE SHOP

Just a short note to advise our members that, behind the scenes, the usual suspects (Chas Cooke, Pittk and Roger Pescodd) are looking at ways to greatly expand the range of items we can buy online. We now recognize that this is an important means of maximizing our income by selling members **good** gear which **we would want to purchase**. Watch this space.



## Escape From HMS PERSEUS Sinking Mediterranean 1941

Ray Brooks (AMEO(L) 1977 – 80) sent me this fascinating article. Look out for the book – “Submarine Escape: A WWII Survival Tale from Kefalonia” by Tom CLAYTON. The associated BBC Radio programme “Escape From The Deep” was broadcast on Friday 2 December 2011 at 1100 GMT on BBC Radio 4.

The article below is from “BBC News Magazine” and has been severely edited to take out the “dramatic civvy crap” not suitable in our Newsletter nor to ex-submariners.



Launch of HMS PERSEUS 1929

Seventy years ago, off the Greek island of Kefalonia, HMS Perseus hit a mine, sparking one of the most controversial survival stories of World War II.

Two fifths of the British boats that ventured into the Mediterranean were sunk. During the whole of the war there were only **four** escapes from stricken British submarines. And the most remarkable of these took place on 6 December 1941 from HMS PERSEUS.

HMS PERSEUS sailed from Malta at the end of November 1941 with a crew of 59 plus two passengers, one of whom was John Capes, a 31-year old Navy Stoker en route for Alexandria.



A bit of an enigma, Capes had been educated at Dulwich College (a *Public School*), and as the son of a diplomat he would naturally have been “officer class” rather than a Stoker.

On the night of 6 December, Perseus was “on the roof” off the coast of Kefalonia, recharging her batteries. Capes later described an explosion throwing him from his bunk. He groped for a torch and in the increasingly foul air and rising water of the engine room he found “the mangled bodies of a dozen dead”. He dragged any stokers who showed signs of life towards the escape hatch and fitted them and himself with Davis Submarine Escape Apparatus.

### WWII Submarine Escapes

HMS Umpire sank near Norfolk, England on 19 July 1941. **Escapees: 14-15**

HMS Stratagem sank near Malacca, Malaysia on 22 November 1944. **Escapees: 10**

HMS Perseus sank near Kefalonia, Greece on 6 December 1941. **Escapees: 1**

HMS P32 sank near Tripoli, Libya on 18 August 1941 (but the wreck was discovered only in 1999).

**Escapees: 2**

Then he took a last swig of rum from his blitz bottle, ducked under and passed through the hatch himself. But having made the deepest escape yet recorded, his ordeal was not over. His fellow injured stokers had not made it to the surface with him so he found himself alone in the middle of a cold December sea. In the darkness he spotted a band of white cliffs and realised he had no choice but to strike out for those. The next morning, Capes was found unconscious by two fishermen on the shore of Kefalonia. For the following 18 months he was passed from house to house, to evade the Italian occupiers.



Kostas Thoctarides and his dive team found the wreck of HMS Perseus in 1997

He was finally taken off the island on a fishing boat in May 1943, in a clandestine operation organised by the Royal Navy. A dangerous, roundabout journey of 640km took him to Turkey and from there back to the submarine service in Alexandria.

### AN ELEMENT OF “DISBELIEF”

Despite being awarded a medal for his escape, Capes's story was so extraordinary that many people, both within and outside the Navy, doubted it. Was he really on the boat at all?

He was not on the crew list and submarine commanders had been ordered to bolt escape hatches shut from the outside (to prevent them lifting during depth charge attacks). There were no witnesses, he had a reputation as a great storyteller, his own written accounts after the war varied in their details and the depth gauge reading 270ft made his story all the harder to believe.

Capes died in 1985 but it was not until 1997 that his story was finally verified.

In a series of dives to the wreck of Perseus, Kostas Thoctarides discovered Capes's empty torpedo tube bunk, the hatch and compartment exactly as he had described it, and finally, his blitz bottle from which he had taken that last fortifying swig of rum.

*[Tim Clayton is the author of Sea Wolves: the Extraordinary Story of Britain's WW2 Submarines (Ed: This book is available on Amazon)]*



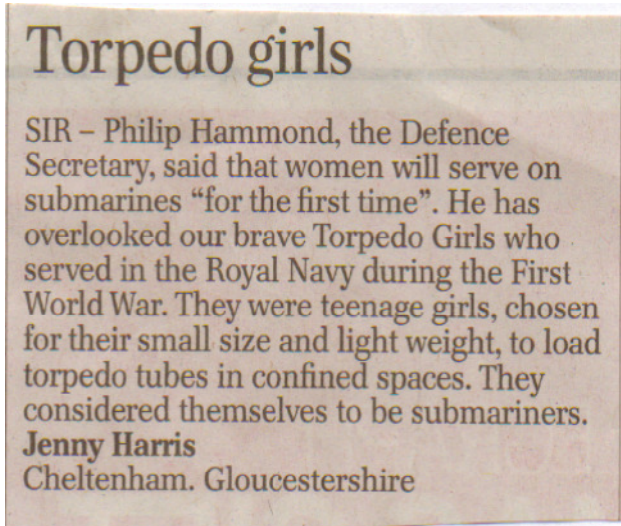


## WOMEN IN SUBMARINES



*Editor's Note: As you probably know by now, the announcement has been made in Parliament that women will in future be allowed to serve in submarines. A momentous decision and a fairly sensitive one- the following is my précis of the announcement:*

1. Recent advanced medical studies now indicate that following the onboard smoking ban of 2007, the general rule is that only **pregnant** women should not serve at sea due to the risk to a foetus from high levels of CO<sub>2</sub>.
2. The RN also sees this as a further opportunity to be a modern inclusive employer, developing opportunities for all those who seek to take them **{ a bit blah-di-blah this bit?? Editor}**
3. The Submarine Service is intended to remain all-volunteer, the Navy Board needs a bigger pool of potential Part IIIs-and this initiative will help greatly.
4. The introduction of female personnel will be phased, with female officers first. Using the lessons learned from the skimmer introduction of female personnel.
5. Female officers will first serve in the Vanguard Class in late 2013, with ratings introduced possibly from the middle of 2015, depending on habitability changes.
6. The introduction of female personnel into the Astute Class could follow from 2016, again depending on changes to the proverbial "BEM" (bathrooms, 'eads and messdecks). By 2020 about half the submarine flotilla could have female ratings serving onboard with 9-15 women per boat.
7. The USN has already announced the introduction of female officers into their SSBN/SSGN fleet.
8. Professional competence remains the most important characteristic of those who serve at sea, and we will not be reducing our training standards



**Daily Relegraph letter regarding WWI "Torpedo Girls" – ashamed to say I'd never heard of them before (Ed)**

*Editor's note:*

*Well - there you have it – another big change in the Navy. "Women in Boats!"*

*In my humble opinion no big deal (until the first bonking incident on the bridge while running "shut down"- then the Daily Mail will have a field day)*

*The Services must continually adapt to survive.*

*We already have female fighter pilots, Jenny Wrens on our skimmers, and a "lady medic" was awarded the Military Cross for courage under fire last year.*

*Does anyone seriously think our young women can't do it?*



**THE DIESEL FITTER  
(FROM Ray Brooks ex-AMEO)**

Paddy and Mick were both laid off, so they went to the "dole" office. When asked his occupation, Paddy answered: **'Knicker Stitcher.** I sew da elastic onto ladies' knickers and thongs.'

The clerk looked up Knicker Stitcher on his computer and, finding it classified as unskilled labour, gave him £80 a week unemployment pay.

Mick was next in and when asked his occupation replied, **'Diesel Fitter.'** Since this was a skilled job, the clerk gave Mick £160 a week.

When Paddy found out he was furious.. He stormed back into the office to find out why his friend and co-worker was collecting double his pay.

The clerk explained, 'Knicker Stitches are unskilled labour and Diesel Fitters are skilled labour.'

'What skill?' yelled Paddy. 'I sew da elastic on da knickers and thongs, then Mick puts 'em over his head and says: **'Yep, diesel fitter.'**

*Editor's Note: This was submitted by my long-time friend and ship-mate (I thought) Ray Brooks. You see, as any Irishman will tell you-you have to take these jokes to show what a good sport you are!*

*My turn now: Why are Irish jokes so silly? So the English can understand'em!*

*My turn again (again): This one is a Welsh Joke: What's the only thing wrong with Scotland? You've got to go through England to get to it!*

**AND NOW FOR A MIDDLE-WATCH JOKE**

My mate rang me on my mobile the other day and asked me what my ringtone was. I told him I'd never really thought about it but I suppose it's light brown like everyone else's with perhaps a touch of red after a good Ruby Murray! (Chas)

**A GOOD WOMAN IS HARD TO FIND.....**

My mate told me that he was breaking it off with his fiancée as she hadn't spoken to him for almost two weeks. I told him not to rush into things because women like that were few and far between.

**Mr. Alistair Campbell  
(A Request for Information about his Dad)**

Mr. Alastair Campbell has recently contacted the Association looking for information about his father.

Pittk is having a trawl through the records ( he was on the boat about the same time as Mr. Campbell's Dad). We hope that some members will remember the name and be able to contribute.

**Any memoirs or memories to Pittk or the Editor.**

Hi.

*I hope you don't mind me sending you this message. My father **Thomas Crichton Campbell (also called "Jock")** served in HMS Courageous as a radar operator some time between 67 and 79. He was from Arbroath Scotland. Unfortunately he died in 2006 but he never really spoke of his time in the Navy. I would love to know if any one remembers him and can share some stories about him. Many thanks for your time.*  
**Alastair Crichton Campbell**



**THE JIGSAW PUZZLE.**

A little silver-haired lady calls her neighbour and says: "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get started."

Her neighbour asks: "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"

The little silver haired lady says:

"According to the picture on the box, it's a rooster."

Her neighbour decides to go over and help with the puzzle. She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table. He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says:

"First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster."

He takes her hand and says:

"Secondly, I want you to relax. Let's have a nice cup of tea"

"And then," he said with a deep sigh **"Let's put all the Corn Flakes back in the box".** (Chas)



## AND NOW A SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS GHOST STORY



The scene is outside a little town deep in the Scottish Highlands in fierce winter snow-late at night. A lonely backpacker stands hitchhiking in the dark - time passes slowly and no cars come - it is snowing so hard he can't see his hands in front of his face.

Out of the gloom and snow a ghostly car materializes, slowly and silently creeping towards him then stopping. Desperate to get to the next village for shelter, the backpacker jumps in. The car moves forward again. Only now does the backpacker realize that there is **nobody** behind the wheel, and no sound of an engine.

He is frozen with terror - too scared to think of jumping out and running. Slowly the car approaches a sharp curve and, still too scared to jump out, he starts to pray and he begs for his life, promising to be a much better person - if only the bloody car doesn't go off the road and into a nearby loch where he will surely drown!

But just before the curve, a pale, shadowy, silent figure appears out of the snow and gloom at the driver's window and a hand reaches in and turns the steering wheel, guiding the car safely around the bend. The apparition silently disappears from the window and hitchhiker is alone again! Giving copious prayers of thanks, yet still paralyzed with fear, the fellow watches the hand reappear every time they reach a curve.

Finally, scared witless and sh\*tless (i.e awfully scared) , he can take no more. He leaps from the car and runs for his life, until he staggers into the remote hamlet of Auchtershovelpoo. Into the bar he goes, where he downs a very very large whiskey. As he slowly revives, he nervously stammers out the details of his frightening supernatural experience. In the ensuing silence everyone in the bar gets goosepimples as it becomes apparent that the poor fellow is not a wild drunk nor a madman but is absolutely sincere - and scared half to death.....

Half an hour later two old farm hands wander into the bar and one says to the other:

**'Look Hamish - there's the eejit that jumped into our car while we were pushin' it in the snow!'**



## Chas COOKE DIT (Submariners Lounge)



Well gents, Chrimbo is almost upon us and the 2012 reunion is rushing toward us at a rate of knots. I hope I will be able to get there myself but a new job and possible shoulder ops may prevent me. I am sure we will have the usual great weekend together. Don't forget to read the information and complete the application available on the website or in this newsletter edition.

I have recently discovered Facebook's Submariners Lounge, finding some old oppos, great photos, and reading brilliant dits. Submariners Lounge welcomes all serving and ex submariners, as well as family and friends and is a mine of information and humour. It's a bit like an electronic version of a combined Werm magazine and the Grumpy Corner dit book. Worth a look.

The website online shop has recently been updated with goods for your delight. These include the normal tie/lapel pins, cuff links, polo shirts with an improved design and better badge adn, by the time this newsletter is issued the new version of the Association tie should be on the site, again with improved colours, an improved badge and a much better weave material. The Courageous Book is still available with a few copies remaining.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas, a peaceful 2012 and, to those of you serving or with family or friends serving in

## Political Protest in London (A Personal View from Ken COLLINS)

**It actually happened in an Underground station in London.**

*There were protesters on the concourse handing out pamphlets on the evils of Britain. I politely declined to take one.*

*An elderly woman behind me was getting off the escalator and a young (20-ish) female protester offered her a pamphlet, which she politely declined.*

*The young protester put her hand on the woman's shoulder as a gesture of friendship and in a very soft voice asked 'Madam, don't you care about the children of Iraq?'*

*The elderly woman looked up at her and said, 'My dear, my father died in France during World War II, I lost my husband in Korea and my grandson in Afghanistan. All three died so you could have the right to stand here and bad mouth our country.'*

*If you touch me again, I'll stick this umbrella up your arse and open it.'*

*God Bless Great Britain. (What we have left of it !!!!)*



**THE COURAGEOUS  
EXHIBIT  
(By PittK)**



Tours continue, but now we have issues with Tour Guide availability. In the past the RN has supplied two or three serving submariners to host some tours, which we knew could not last, especially with the recent slash and burn defence cuts. They have now been withdrawn..

Henceforth, if submarine-qualified Courageous Volunteer Guides (CVG's) are unavailable, visitors are taken around by a General Service Junior Rate with a card prompt – not a satisfactory state of affairs. A recent reasonably successful “push” has produced an additional ten volunteers on the books, most are serving submariners but we also have four ex-submariners – so its not all doom and gloom.

Internally, Nige Thornber (ex CPO Stoker from Warspite) has produced an excellent time-line of the Submarine Service. This is located in the old Senior Rates Bunk Space taking up the whole outboard bulkhead. The internal bulkhead carries the Courageous-specific time line display. This has meant much shuffling around of photographs. This area is very popular with visitors and gets rather congested.

The cleaning of Courageous is still not up to the “Captain’s Rounds” standard needed to impress the general public visiting this unique exhibit. There seem to be issues with the cleaning contract - I continue to bring it to the notice of those in authority, but with meagre results.

Some onboard items have been “store-robbed” e.g. notices, the escape suit “man-nappy” in the fore-ends and the Rolls Royce C.D from the player. Whilst they can be replaced, it is very annoying and is such a waste of effort and time.



Young Sid White has produced a CD with a realistic sound of the water ram discharge noise which is played via five loudspeakers secreted around the fore-ends lower level to give the public an idea of the noise made when we fired weapons. Sid is also creating the noise of the W/T Shack. I suggested that all he needed was the sound of very loud snoring, but as an ex-ROSM he is old ‘part-time trade’ and is producing the background noise of clattering tele-type, Morse etc.

Brian Aicheler (ex outside wrecker), is making a model of Courageous and a Soviet escort which will be displayed s a diorama in the old TDHS compartment which has now en de-cluttered. We will have to be extremely careful that it does not detract from the overall ambience and original fabric of one deck. He is also in the process of making up exhibit food for the galley which should look quite good when completed



Well gents, Chrimbo is almost upon us and the 2012 reunion is rushing toward us at a rate of knots. I hope I will be able to get there myself but a new job and possible shoulder ops may prevent me. I am sure we will have the usual great weekend together. Don't forget to read the information and complete the application available on the website or in this newsletter edition.

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I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas, a peaceful 2012 and, to those of you serving or with family or friends serving in the armed forces a peaceful year and, wherever they may be serving, a safe return to loved ones. All the best. (Chas Cooke).



**THE COURAGEOUS NEWSLETTER  
CHRIMBO 2011**



**Well, that's it for this issue.**

**To all our members,  
their families  
and the families of those no longer with us**

**And**

**To all our Servicemen and Servicewomen  
wherever they are serving**

**We wish a**

**VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR!**





**HMS COURAGEOUS ASSOCIATION  
REUNION 2012  
BARROW IN FURNESS**

**DINNER MENU  
REQUEST**

**£32 PER DINER**

Member's Name:		
Member's tel. No:		
Member's e-mail:		
	Member's Choice (Tick)	Member's Guest's Choice (Tick)
Sherry On Arrival at Dinner		
I wish to join for pre-dinner sherry		
Starters:		
Prawn Cocktail		
-----		
Garlic Mushrooms		
-----		
Melon, Kiwi and Grape Cocktail		
Main Courses:		
Poached Salmon with a creamy		
-----		
Prawn and Tomato Sauce		
-----		
Roast Beef with all the trimmings		
-----		
Roast Turkey with all the trimmings		
Vegetarian Main Course Option (details to be confirmed)		
Special Dietary Requirements (please give full details of requirements)		
Desserts:		
A Full Choice of Desserts will be available		
Coffee and Mints		
Port		
Red or White Wine (2 glasses per Diner) (please indicate choice)		

**Please forward the completed form by e-mail or paper format to Ken Collins, Roger Pescodd. or Tom HILL (addresses on website or last page of newsletter)**