

HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH

Newsletter – Dec 2014



Message from Captain Simon R Pettitt Royal Navy Senior Naval Officer



Another year passes and it gives me great pleasure to wish our Friends and Families a really Happy Christmas. At this time of year I like to pause and reflect on what has we have done and look forward to what is to come. For QUEEN ELIZABETH, there has been so much achieved in 2014, and so much in store for 2015 and beyond, that it seems quite difficult to know where to start. I find great pride in taking stock of our achievements this year, which have profound and far-reaching benefits, not only during the generation of this incredible vessel but also for her entire Service career ahead and we have successfully achieved both the fantastic Naming Ceremony in July and the subsequent Launch of the Ship in August. The progress of fitting her out continues apace and we are very conscious that the time when we will finally move onboard our ship is getting ever closer!

Despite not yet being onboard, the year has been a busy one for the Ship's Company. They have made huge progress in creating Standard Operating Procedures and Standing Orders (our Operating Manual) which is a huge task and was my main focus for this year. Every week, more and more first drafts are turning into working copies, which are then refined and revisited as we continue to discover things about the Ship. This work has been a key enabler for much other activity as it enables us to picture what the Ship is to be like at Sea much better and have a clearer idea of how we are going to operate her for the next 50 years.

With the major structural work now complete, we have watched as the High Voltage electrical supply, has started to flow through the systems on board. With it, our Engineers' involvement with the Ship, working closely with our colleagues in industry to conduct Trials and Commissioning of equipment and machinery is significantly increased. In early 2015 we will see the commissioning of our Diesel Engines, a notable milestone on the road towards the day when the Ship will propel herself across the Oceans of the World under her own power. As the Ship's systems and accompanying processes become clearer to us, our vision

for Training is also developing focus, with individual department Training plans tying into the overall Ship's plan. By this time in 2015, we will be giving Training Taskbooks to all

members of our Ship's Company, marking the increasing maturity of the groundwork being undertaken now, and will have moved from low-level SOP testing and sub-team training to utilising the Ship for team training.

Hand in hand with Engineering and Training work, the Logistics department have been busy day in and day out, developing the first onboard Stores outfit and the QUEEN ELIZABETH Class Support Solution, which will sustain the Ship through her first Sea Trials and well beyond. In addition, the Logistics Personnel Team have given constant and reliable administrative support to the ever-growing number of people in Rosyth. The Catering Services team have also enabled VIP Official Functions and Mess Dinners with first class Catering Services support. These activities relate directly to their key outputs; by September 2015, they will have created the Catering plan which the Ship will go to sea with. Our Warfare and Air departments are also now better formed with increased numbers of personnel.

The year has been truly remarkable; our Ship has been named and we have hosted Her Majesty the Queen in doing so, we have worked with our allies in America and France in the course of developing understanding of Air and Warfare skills for the future, we have strengthened our ties with our affiliated organisations and we have developed our people's knowledge and experience immensely. All the above and much more have been achieved in the finest traditions of the Service.

And of course, behind all these remarkable achievements are you; our families and our friends, without whose support none of this would ultimately be possible. We have worked hard and played hard throughout 2014; now my Ship's company can look forward to taking the well-deserved rest they have earned, to return in 2015 both revitalised and ready to take HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH forward on her journey. I wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours

BUILD PROGRESS

High Voltage (HV) Live - Update

QNLZ has now successfully reached an exciting milestone and achieved Phase 1 of HV Live. After a significant amount of work to connect the shore supply cables and ready the HV switchboards for power, at the end of October HMS Queen Elizabeth was supplied with shore based High Voltage electricity for the first time. With High Voltage now coursing through the ship attention was turned to HV Live phase 2, culminating in all four Switchboards onboard being energised by the 5th of November.

Work is now well underway towards achieving the third and final phase of HV live which involves supplying High Voltage to the 13 Ship's Service Transformers, Once these have all been powered up and tested, we can take our Low Voltage power from the HV shore supply. Then the ship will be ready for autonomous power from her own generators next year!



Diesel Engine Commissioning

The Ship's Integrated Electric Propulsion (IEP) system has six generators, known as "prime movers", supplying power for both propulsion and hotel services. Four of these are Diesel Generators, supplied by Wartsila; two of these are V12 engines rated at 8.3 Mega Watts and two are V16 engines, rated at 11.2 Mega Watts,

We have been heavily involved in the maintenance conducted by Wartsila engineers, including partially stripping the engines down to inspect them (a simple precaution, because the engines have been in the Ship for a long period without being operated). Three members of Ship's Staff have also been trained on the design, running and maintenance of the engines at the Wartsila factory in Trieste, Italy.

This training and exposure to the engines will be invaluable during the forthcoming engine "live-starts" and commissioning process, due to start in summer 2015. This will be a combined effort from Wartsila and the ACA commissioning team, of which we form a significant part.

The DG live starts will be a huge milestone in the overall commissioning of QNLZ. Completion means we will be able to generate our own power.

TRAINING

IPMS Familiarisation Facility

The Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS) Familiarisation Facility (Fam Fac) was installed within HMS QNLZ's offices in summer this year; all members of Ship's Company will require some level of training to enable them to successfully fulfil their individual roles. Since coming online, 48 members of Ship's Company have been trained in 4 tranches of training, delivered by a representative from the manufacturers, L3. The Fam Fac is now used daily, with all departments using it for various tasks.

Damage Surveillance And Control (DSAC) is one of the key elements of IPMS. DSAC is going to be used by everybody onboard, particularly if the Ship should sustain damage leading to an onboard emergency. After Christmas we will be ensuring that all members of Ship's Company have a sound knowledge of and experience with DSAC. QNLZ's Damage Control Officer, Lt Cdr John Ball, will take great pride in making sure that our people will be capable of effectively prosecuting any Damage Control incident.

First Aid Training

In most RN Ships, a minimum of 10% of personnel are supposed to be trained in advanced First Aid, in addition to dedicated First Aid Teams. Due to the size of QUEEN ELIZABETH, these training levels could mean that response times onboard are significantly increased. To prevent this, our Medical Training Plan will provide regular advanced First Aid courses, so that 40% of the Ship's Company is trained to a higher level. In addition, all other personnel will have completed the Core Maritime Skill First Aid training, so all members of the Ship's Company will be trained in Basic Life Support. This level of training will give assurance that excellent casualty response times are maintained.

LMA Zasada has the lead for delivery of advanced First Aid training in Lowden Building, and there will be First Aid casualty exercises conducted in Lowden Building before we get onboard the Ship, so that our people are well practiced in responding swiftly and certainly to first aid incidents.



SPORTS AND AT

Football

The Ship's football team entered into the Navy Cup with a tough opening fixture against 43 Cdo, a daunting challenge! The team travelled to HMS NEPTUNE with a somewhat "mature" and untried squad. Unsurprisingly, the Marines' cohesion paid dividends and they carved out a 7-0 half time lead. Undaunted, HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH rallied and in the second half displayed an abundance of grit and determination to stifle attacks. Only another 2 goals were conceded and for this the team should be commended, as with the Marines they were facing a formidable outfit. The team has vowed to return next year with a squad freshened with a future injection of new players.



Rugby Union

HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH RFC also achieved a first this term, with a fixture of touch rugby against a mixed team from Blackrock Investment, who are experienced exponents of this style and regularly play in a local league. The afternoon consisted of four sessions; Blackrock proved to be crafty on the attack, winning the first session, only for QUEEN ELIZABETH to rally, shoring up the defence and coming out on top in the second session. Honours were even in the third session, which set things up nicely for a mixed-teams game in session four to finish. The afternoon was tiring but entertaining! We are keen to put into practice the lessons learned in the full contact game during next seasons' entry into the NAVY CUP.

Golf

In mid November a 4 man team to Burntisland Golf Club to compete in the Winter Scottish Tri-Service golf championship. The team consisting of Cdr Craig Mearns, Lt Tom Hetherington, CPO Frenchy Le Clere and PO Cheesy Hilton, who won the team event to add to the summer Tri-Service Championship previously won by the ship. In the Individual stableford event both Cdr Mearns and PO Hilton posted over 40 points to be in with a chance of the title; however, PO Hilton narrowly missed out by count-back to finish second with Cdr Mearns a very respectable 3rd



White Water Rafting

An afternoon of white water rafting was organised by LETME "Dusty" Miller on the river Tay. Although the day began as a lesson in how teamwork can make any task achievable, it soon descended into something that rather resembled the Battle of the Nile, with boarding parties being quickly organised. This was most reminiscent of the era of Napoleonic warfare at Sea, except with slightly less bloodshed. On a more serious note, the afternoon was physically demanding, mentally challenging and White Water Rafting is highly recommended to all.



Ryder Cup

Four members of the Ship's company took part in the opening and closing ceremonies for the Ryder cup, raising the flags of all the countries

represented. CPO Vickers, PO Dixon, LET Kaja and ET Wainwright did the honours. On completion of the opening ceremony they all had access to the event which was a once in a life time opportunity which gave them the chance to look around Gleneagles and enjoy seeing both teams golfer's warming up. The closing ceremony on the Sunday saw LET Kaja and representatives from the Army and RAF take the Ryder cup itself out to the main stage. All personnel had a fantastic time which was made even better by Europe taking the win.

VISITS AND AFFILIATIONS

Grenadier Guards

Lieutenant Colonel 'Chips' Broughton, the CO of 1 Grenadier Guards visited Rosyth on 15th October and exchanged crests with Cdr Craig Means. The Grenadiers have historically had Naval ties; due to this, their Inkerman Company is known as the 'Maritime Company', its Guardsmen known as 'Ribs', and its Company Commander is affectionately known as the Battalion's First Sea Lord! After a Ship's tour, the visitors attended the Trafalgar Night dinner at MOD Caledonia where they were inspired by Lt Vaughan's spirited renditions of traditional sea shanties. This was a small but significant step in formalising an affiliation that will endure throughout the life of HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH, with a return visit to join the Grenadiers on an exercise in Kenya next Summer already in the offing.



RNRMC Bridge Run

The 2nd HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH charity 2 Bridges Run was conducted encompassing the Forth & Kincardine Bridges, a distance of 40 miles. The race was conducted to commemorate the anniversary of the Launch of the 1st HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH in Oct 1913 and to also raise money on behalf of the Ship's Charity, the RNRMC. A total of £297 was raised by the team, and all are thanked for their efforts.

RNRMC have also been pivotal in providing support for social events for the Ship, particularly with the Ship's Company Christmas dinner which took place on 2nd December in the Edinburgh Hilton Hotel; a big thank you to all at the RNRMC for this.



Fettes College

Lt Cdr Nathan Gillett (the First Lieutenant), along with Lt Angela Armour (Education & Training Officer), WO1 Wtr Kevin Fudge and LWtr Claire Butler paid a visit to Fettes College on the 18th of November. In the crucible of a class of 10 year children, they certainly earned their pay for that day! First up was the First Lieutenant who spoke



with the pupils about HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH and life in the Service. Lt Armour then spoke to the children, briefly losing their attention when she told them that she too was a teacher(!) but rallying magnificently with some entertaining facts about the Ship, which all enjoyed. WO1 Fudge also answered questions from the children, impressing them mightily with his uniform festooned with medals as a testament to his knowledge and experience in the Royal Navy. Finally, LWtr Butler told the children about working life in a typical day onboard Royal Navy Ships and how this compared with HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH also.

After fond farewells were said, the team drove back to the Ship in anticipation of a return visit from Fettes College to Lowden Building on 28 Nov. More to follow on this in a future Newsletter instalment!

Heart of Midlothian FC

On Saturday 8 November 2014, the SNO was invited by Heart of Midlothian Football Club to their ground Tynecastle Park, Edinburgh for the Scottish Championship fixture against Raith Rovers. He was joined by Lt Cdr Montgomery, RPO Campbell, PO Hamilton and LS Templeton.

The SNO and the accompanying members of the Ship's Company were hosted in the Director's Box where a presentation was made cementing this relationship, which it is hoped will endure for many more years to come.

The date of the presentation was significant as the match was played during Remembrance Weekend, commemorating the 100th anniversary of those members of Hearts' first team squad who answered the call for King and Country in 1914; the entire first team volunteered for service, forming what later became known as McCrae's Battalion

Hearts won the match 1-0, with the SNO remarking that he was now a confirmed Jambo!

Grass Roots Clay Pigeon Shooting

On 23 Oct, around 20 members of Ship's Company from all ranks and rates took advantage of Grass-Roots funding to try their hands at some Clay Pigeon Shooting at the Scottish Clay Shooting Centre, near St. Andrews.

Far from being the preserve of the landed gentry, Clay Pigeon shooting was historically used to teach Naval gunners how to 'lead' (aim in front of) moving targets; it is one of the three recognised Service Firearms disciplines, alongside Skill at Arms with Service Firearms and Target Rifle Shooting. Everyone involved hit at least one target for the first time and some scored extremely highly from a total of 20 targets, with 85-95% hit rates. This bodes well for our potential to raise a Ship's Shooting Team and enter RN Clay Pigeon Shooting Association events in the New Year.



Trafalgar Night

HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH's Trafalgar Night Dinner took place on 15 Oct 14 in the Wardroom at HMS CALEDONIA. A marvellous dinner was topped off by an exceptional after dinner speech from Brigadier David Allfrey MBE (Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Retd). Although an ex 'Pongo', Brigadier Allfrey demonstrated that he truly understood the fundamental nature of 'Jack', with a fascinating speech that encapsulated for all present the essence of the Nelsonian Spirit. Brigadier Allfrey has been working as the Producer of the annual Edinburgh Military Tattoo since 2011.

Our affiliations:

- The City of London
- The City of Edinburgh
- The Worshipful Company of Grocers
- The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights
- Fettes College Combined Cadet Force
- The Sea Cadets
- The Grenadier Guards
- The Royal Scots Borderers - 1 Royal Regt Scotland
- RAF Marham
- USS Gerald R Ford
- The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity
- Black Rock Investment Management

Honours and Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of the SNO's Award for Efficiency in the Autumn Term, CPO John Moul and LLogs(SC) Alan Thompson. They received Scottish polished-pewter Quaichs, twin handled bowl-like cups that traditionally represent friendship and trust. CPO Moul has been an instrumental figure in developing Ship's Sporting activities and organising fitness training facilities in Lowden Building, whilst LLogs Thompson has recently been selected for promotion to Petty Officer, reflecting his excellent performance in the QEC First Outfit Stores Cell.



CPO John 'Taff' Moul



LLogs(SC) Alan Thompson

**We wish you a Merry Christmas,
and a Happy New Year.**