



# Quornucopia

## HMS QUORN'S NEWSLETTER



18 May 2015

Greetings to all families, friends and affiliates. Welcome to the second HMS Quorn deployment newsletter. Over the last couple of weeks we have made steady progress in the Baltic, operating with the Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group One (SNMCMG1) Task Group, both at sea and in harbour.

### Inner Leads, Scotland

On sailing from the Clyde to Gothenburg our route passed through some of Scotland's most beautiful waterways, via the narrow channels of the Inner Leads.



*HMS Quorn passing under the Skye Bridge*

The Ship's Company were treated to 24 hours of beautiful scenery, sunny skies and sheltered seas as Quorn navigated through the 200 mile stretch of narrow waterways. The route ended with Quorn passing under the famous Skye Bridge before heading into the rougher waters of the North Sea towards Gothenburg.

### Gothenburg, Sweden

Our visit to Gothenburg included conducting Regional Engagement with a reception hosted by FGS Donau and Quorn open to the general public. Stances were set up on the Sweep Deck; a damage control exhibit with the chance to use the fire fighting hoses, an explanation of the technology we use to hunt mines, and of course a display of the equipment that our Ship's divers use including the decompression chamber. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the most popular stance was the one set up on the Foc'sle which allowed the public to hold and see first hand the Ship's Force Protection weapons, expertly demonstrated by a very busy Able

### Seaman (Diver)

Richard Fisher. The Ship Open to Visitors day proved very popular with over 240 people visiting Quorn alone.



*HMS Quorn alongside Gothenburg with the rest of SNMCMG1*

### Coordinated Transit to Lithuania

After a busy couple of days alongside in Sweden Quorn sailed with the NATO Group and conducted Maritime Security operations enroute to Lithuania. Over a 5-day period we conducted interoperability training and exercises with the other 6 multinational ships (plus 3 remote control drones!). Training included a Search and Rescue exercise, close formation manoeuvring, recovery of a 'Man Overboard', diving and communication exercises (voice, Morse code and flags).



*HMS Quorn practicing Replenishment at Sea approaching on the Flagship FGS Donau.*

During the transit personnel within the Group conducted a day experiencing life onboard other ships with three of Quorn's Crew visiting the Dutch Ship HNLMS Willemstad for the day and

Quorn hosting personnel from the German Flagship FGS Donau and the Belgian Minehunter BNS Lobelia.



*3 Dutch sailors extinguishing an exercise 'fire' in HMS Quorn's Sweep Store*

The week culminated in all ships rafting together as a group to fuel before proceeding alongside which was a first for the Ship and her Crew.



*HMS Quorn (third from right) rafted alongside her NATO allies*

### **Klaipeda, Lithuania**

After a busy programme of sea training, Quorn and the NATO Task Group visited Klaipeda, Lithuania, for rest, resupply and interoperability training with the Lithuanian Navy. Quorn once again opened its brow to the general public, this time with an impressive 1200 people visiting the ship over 2 days. Meanwhile Steward 'Tug' Wilson and Able Seaman (Mine Warfare) Ryan Smout assisted the Commander in hosting a reception onboard the Flagship, FGS Donau, for local and international dignitaries. During the visit, some of the Ship's Company managed to take some leave and visit the culturally renowned city of Riga while others took part in a day's team-building exercise, Kayaking 25 km down a local river with Engineering Technician (Marine Engineer) Tom 'Spoons' Spooner proving the most adept paddler amongst us.



*The view as Quorn's kayakers start their journey downriver*

### **Operation OPEN SPIRIT 2015**

Having just left Lithuania, Quorn is now operating in Estonia conducting Op OPEN SPIRIT 2015 with NATO and other Baltic units. In its 18<sup>th</sup> year, Op OPEN SPIRIT is a joint NATO operation which aims to locate and dispose of the 80,000 mines laid by Russian and German forces during both World Wars. HMS Quorn started hunting today and we hope to be able to provide you an update on how we get on in the weeks to come.

We are all thinking of you back home, and to the families with children, we wish you an enjoyable half term next week.

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