

# HMS DUNCAN

## Family and Friends Newsletter

September 2015



## Welcome back Royals

The Royal Marines Boarding Team (RMBT) has recently returned to us after three weeks of training with the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF). One of the Royal Marines' secondary roles is to conduct Wider Regional Engagement on behalf of HM Government to develop and maintain relationships with the host nation – Bahrain in this case. The RMBT designed and implemented a basic training programme to meet the specific needs of the BDF.

They emphasised the importance of mastering the basics before moving onto more complex skills and manoeuvres and introduced the Bahrainis to some 'Bootneck' phys. A variety of topics was covered, from weapon handling drills to house clearing. A lot of time was spent on the ranges teaching the Bahrainis and also practising the team. During the final week they were fortunate enough to be allowed to train on a super tanker that was docked in the Ship Repair Yard. A huge ship, it was an exciting and challenging training serial.

A good time was had by all and it certainly took some adjusting when re-embarking! The RMBT are back into the routine now and looking forward to seeing what the rest of the deployment has in store.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

*Dear Duncan Family,*

I hope that all is well as life returns to normal after the Summer Holidays. Onboard we have settled back into our operational routine following leave and have had a diverse programme over August and September with visits and a range of tasks performed with great success. However, as I am sure you are, we are now very much looking forward to our return to the UK with only two and a half months to go.

We have been able to enjoy a less intense period of tasking recently and this has allowed us the opportunity to complete important training serials but also enjoy some sporting and social activities such as a flight deck BBQ and an Olympiad. We hope to be able to achieve lots more of these on our return journey back to the UK for the Ship's Company to get involved in.

Finally, it was with great pleasure that we hosted several visitors recently to DUNCAN including Commander Portsmouth Flotilla and a sea day for the Joaan Bin Jassim Joint Command and Staff College.

*Cdr Rich Atkinson*  
Commanding Officer HMS DUNCAN



## Long Service and Good Conduct Medals

During a visit by Commander Portsmouth Flotilla Long Service and Good Conduct (LSGC) medals were awarded to four members of our Warrant Officers and Senior Rates mess. Recipients of this award are RPO Smith, PO Whitfield, CPO Davidge and CPO Baron, pictured on the left with Commander Portsmouth Flotilla Commodore Peter Sparkes. Congratulations to all recipients.



Std Barber enjoys her coffee and cake at the coffee morning (above) and LStd Toney enters the Ship's Raffle (below)

### The 'Buffer's Bakery' opens for business for Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning

In aid of the Macmillan 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' members of Ship's Company lined up to taste the delicious offerings baked by the Chief Bosun's Mate PO Neil 'Polly' Perkins and his team of willing assistants. Renowned for his cupcake skills and constantly in demand for birthday cakes the 'Buffer' produced a range of flavoured cupcakes including chocolate orange, spice and vanilla which were enjoyed by all during the standeasly. The event raised a grand total of £390 in the process for Macmillan Cancer Support.



ET Lorenz cannot decide which cake to choose



### Engineers Olympiad and Flight Deck BBQ

The Ship's Company took the opportunity to enjoy a range of challenges set by the Marine Engineering (ME) department one sunny afternoon. Challenges included the 'damage control dingy' relay, Cannon the Cannon-a tricky, oily obstacle course with the assembly of a water cannon at the end, the egg and spanner race and a navy favourite the tug of war. All completed whilst enjoying the salt water benefits of a fire fighting hose to add that real life element. Interestingly the organisers the ME team took a closely fought win from the Royal Marines.

After all the fun and games it was time to relax with a flight deck BBQ expertly cooked by the Warrant Officers and Senior Rates mess before getting back to work the following day.



A selection of photos from the Engineers Olympiad and Flight Deck BBQ



# Meet the Warfare Department Part 1

## Department



The largest department onboard the Warfare Department's main priority is to keep the Ship safe; whether it is during a busy set of action stations in the Gulf of Aden or a quiet night watch off the south coast of the UK. The Warfare Department, affectionately known as Dabbers, watch the skies and the seas keeping the Ship and the mission safe 24 hours of the day, 7 days a week.

**AWT (RPs)** – This sub-department is run by the CPO AWT 'Chalky' Fuller. The key workers of the operations room; the AWT department are responsible for the surveillance of the Sea, Air and Land environment and deciding on what may or may not be a potential threat to the safety of the ship and the mission.

**AWW (Gunners)** – Responsible for the implementation and allocation of the Ship's weaponry from the Sea viper and Harpoon missile systems to the 9mm Glock handguns. Coordinated by the CPO AWW 'Scouse' McGaw they provide adequate and effective hard kill options on anything that may attempt to harm the Duncan family.

**Electronic Warfare (Gollies)** – PO 'Fez' Parkers leads the Electronic Warfare team providing the ship with effective electronic warfare capabilities and soft kill options from Chaff to more secretive countermeasures.

**Communications Technicians (Comms)** – The most secretive group onboard the CTs are the ears of the ship, not much is known about their work but they are responsible for providing valuable and up to date intelligence to the command.

**Underwater Warfare (Tazz Apes)** – On an anti-air warfare destroyer you wouldn't expect there to be much of a call for an underwater warfare department but Duncan is equipped with an extensive array of sonar and UW equipment. The smallest department of the Warfare Department it is coordinated by PO Stu Flack.

**Seaman Specialists (Specs)** – The Seaman specialists onboard are the primary Seaman dealing with ropes, small boats and RASs (See the May edition for more on a typical RAS) under the direction of the 'Buffer' PO Perkins, they man the bridge part of ship, handle the steering and ensure communication with adjacent units in the area.



Seaman specialists on the upper deck (above) and a AB warfare specialist keeps watch (below)



LS Hughes in the operations room



The Warfare Department (left) and upper deck weapon drills (above)

# KIDS CORNER



## DUNCAN the Bear



Keeping watch on the bridge wing



Helping to check the safety equipment

Hi Everyone!

I hope you are all well!

I have had a busy month helping everyone onboard. It has been really fun, the Warfare Department have let me join them this month so I have been up on the bridge which is one of my favourite places on the ship. I like spotting the other ships and sometime we see dolphins as well. I have also been allowed into the Operations Room, there is a lot of computers in there and so much to do. It is nice and cold in there so I like it a lot as when I have been out in the sun my fur gets very hot!

You might have noticed from my photos I have a new uniform. It is very smart and now I look like the rest of the Ship's Company which is brilliant. Someone has also sent me a set of combat uniform so I can help out with the guns and the Royal Marines as well, I can't wait to do that!

I enjoyed the cake sale that we had recently; I couldn't decide which cake to have so I had three-ops! I will be in trouble when I go and do my exercises in the gym!

Don't forget to submit your entry for my colouring competition, if you need the picture again please email me. The deadline is the end of October!

Bye for now,

*DUNCAN*

**You can write to me at:**

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