

HMS DARING

Newsletter

February 2016



A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN:

This last month has been an incredibly busy period for HMS DARING, and I am grateful for the huge amount of hard work your sailors have put in during this period. From Bahrain for maintenance, to Pakistan for Exercise AMAN, to Oman for Exercise KHUNJAR HADD, this has been a full and demanding month. In this DARING continues to play a central role in ensuring maritime security in the region, as well as representing the United Kingdom internationally.

You may well find that your sailors are tired. This is a reflection of the enormous amounts of energy and dedication they have put into their duties these last few weeks. As we reach the seven month point of the deployment this can often prove to be a hard time, and we have included in this newsletter a reminder of the contact details for RNRMW. I am enormously proud of the hard working men and women of HMS DARING, and am grateful to you all for the support you give to them.

Marcus Hember
Commander Royal Navy
Commanding Officer

Royal Navy and Royal Marines Welfare (RNRMW):

The RNRMW Portal can be accessed via the RN website:
(<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/welfare/welfare-teams>)

Contact number:
+44 (0) 2392 72 87 77

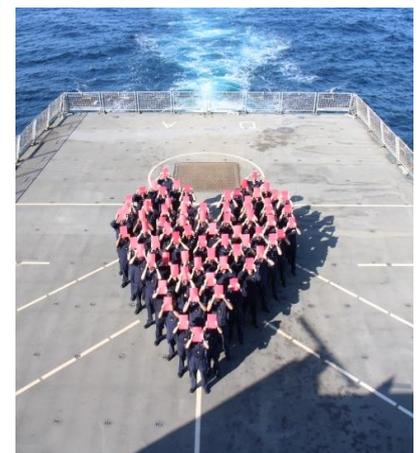
Contact email:
navyers-welfare@mod.uk

Images.

Top:
The crew “cheer ship” off the coast of Karachi

Immediate right:
EX AMAN reception in the hangar

Far right:
Celebrating Valentine’s Day





Ex AMAN: “Together for peace”

From 10th-14th February HMS DARING was in Karachi to participate in Exercise AMAN, along with 71 other countries. The event also coincided with the celebration of 70 years of the Royal Navy working together with our hosts, the Pakistan Navy. Under the banner of “Shared History, Shared Future” we marked this important anniversary. The exercise began with a harbour phase as ships from around the world were berthed together in Karachi harbour. Many of the ship’s company were able to participate in training and

Images.

Top:

Admiral Muhammad Zakauallah, Pakistan Chief of Naval Staff, on the bridge of DARING with the Captain and XO

Bottom left:

HMS DARING vs. HMAS ARUNTA in the “Naval Ashes”

Bottom right:

PO Barnes prepares afternoon tea for the International Cultural Food Gala

ceremonial events ashore. DARING also hosted a number of events on board including a reception, hosting the British High Commissioner, and ship open to visitors tours. The harbour phase culminated in an International Food Gala, at which our chefs showed off their skills laying on a traditional afternoon tea.

Then DARING headed to sea to conduct two days of manoeuvres with the other participants, before bidding farewell to our hosts as we gathered on the deck to “cheer ship” as the Prime Minister of Pakistan witnessed the fleet review. DARING was honoured to represent the United Kingdom, and to participate in the events as the most capable and advanced warship present.

The exercise also gave the opportunity for an important sporting event: the “Naval Ashes”. HMS DARING took on HMAS ARUNTA, the Australian frigate berthed outboard of us, in ten overs of cricket. The result is not important, it is the taking part that counts*. All in all Exercise AMAN was a busy and rewarding time, and a really unique experience, that for many will be a highlight of their OP KIPION deployment.

*DARING batted first scoring 70 runs, they were caught by the 8th over when ARUNTA went into bat.



Gurkha Awareness Day

On Saturday 18th February HMS DARING held a **Gurkha Awareness Day**. Staff Sergeant **Sanjay Thapa** of the 36 Engineer Regiment and The Queen's Gurkha Engineers tells us about the day:

Most of my Army 'Gurkha' career has been involved on land operations and never had any experience working with the Royal Navy. I was extremely delighted to know when the Force Generation Orders tasked me to deploy as an Urdu linguist on OP KIPION with HMS DARING (DRNG) in summer 2016. Due to the operational demand, I was initially detached to HMS PORTLAND (PTLD) for 3 weeks and conducted boarding operations. On completion of a short and successful tour with HMS PTLD, I rejoined DRNG in Souda Bay, Greece in late Sep 16. Since then I have been a part of the Ship and trying to contribute and gain as much experience as possible at sea. However, being the only Gurkha soldier onboard, it came to my mind if I could organise an event to educate the Ship's company about the Gurkhas and our culture. My proposal to the Executive Officer Lt Cdr Botterill RN for a Gurkha Awareness Day came out to be a success.

On 18th Feb, the Gurkha Awareness Day took place in a very fascinating way. The aim of the event was to educate the ship's company about the Gurkhas and to raise funds for the Gurkha Welfare Trust (GWT). The GWT is one of the UK's registered charity organisations, which provides financial, medical and development aid to the Gurkha veterans and their families back in Nepal. The Gurkhas have a long history with the British Army since 1815 and celebrated their 200 year anniversary (G200) in 2015 at national and international levels. The awareness day began with the Gurkha challenge, which consisted of individual and team effort physical activities: Doko race – 4.8 km run on a treadmill with 5% gradient carrying 75 lbs, rowing – 8848m, and cycling – 8848m (the distance represented the height of Mt. Everest). The event moved along with a short presentation on Gurkhas followed by a Gurkha curry meal and finally with an auction of Gurkhas' traditional weapon 'Khukuri', and followed by an evening of the camel racing. I can't express much in words about the Ship's company effort, support and contribution toward this event. They were just utterly behind it!

Continued on the next page...



Images:

Top: Staff Sergeant Sanjay Thapa gives a talk about the Gharkas

Middle: 'Khukuri' – sold for £490 to the senior rates mess.

Bottom left: Some participants got rather wet - the XO lands in the water on the camel race

Bottom right: The curry is prepared



As a result, we as 'DARING' managed to raise a total of **£1658.44** for the GWT and the raised money will be presented on our return to the UK. The deployment has been going smoothly and I am proud that I am part of it. As being a Gurkha soldier, it is my honour to be onboard. I am very attached to DRNG and its people. I am very thankful to the ship's company for their tremendous support and XO for giving me direction.

Finally I would like to convey my gratitude to the Commanding Officer Cdr Hember RN for allowing me to organise this event.

BE BRAVE, BE DARING!!

By Sanjay Thapa



Images:

Top:

The CO in practice for Pancake Day.

Bottom:

ME (ET) Clark in action



That's all for this month, join us again in March...

A day in the life of a stoker:

Hi I'm marine engineering technician Clark of H.M.S Daring and I'm here to tell you what the average day of a marine engineer looks like on board.

First of all I'm from a little town in Scotland called Grangemouth, I'm 23 years old, I've been in the navy for 3 and a half years now. I joined the navy for two reasons: the first of which was the chance to get into engineering with the chance to see the world as well as getting great qualifications; and the second was partly motivated by the fact that my mum is ex-army. My hobbies include football, snooker, and the occasional bit of light reading.

Life on HMS Daring for an M.E. is always exciting and every day presents a new challenge. My daily routine usually consists of electrical testing of all personal private electrical equipment and the ship's private equipment as well as electrical fault finding on low voltage switchboards, low voltage harmonic filters, electrical distribution centres and local distribution panels. When I'm not doing section work I spend parts of my day watchkeeping from the ships control centre where we do rounds of the engine spaces to make sure all of our bits of equipment (e.g. Gas turbines, Diesel generators, high and low pressure salt water pumps, and propulsion systems) are all operating within their parameters.

However life onboard isn't all work, work, work - the ship puts in a great effort across all department to put on events for ships company such as flight deck barbeques, horse/camel racing, movie nights in the hanger, flights deck sports, numerous challenges to raise money for charity, and they are to name but a few.

I hope everyone has enjoyed this little update from the ship and know that the personnel onboard can't wait to get home and see their families as I am sure you are the same; until then keep smiling it won't be long. So from myself and everyone onboard HMS Daring thank you for your continuing support.