



# Crew 8 Chronicles

So Others May Follow



FEBRUARY-MARCH 17



## A word from the Captain...



Dear Family and Friends of Crew 8,

It's been another fascinating and varied period on deployment, particularly as we stretched our legs and explored the broader Middle East.

Engagement with regional partners has been the main focus of our activity and HMS MIDDLETON has taken part in a number of multi-lateral, maritime exercises to enhance international cooperation and to build mutual understanding. While these exercises provide the opportunity for us to operate together at sea, they also form an important part of a broader strategy as the UK government seeks to establish ever closer relationships and a more enduring presence in the region.

Adventurous training in Oman and a mid-deployment stand-down in Dubai have provided well-earned respite and memorable highlights to 'Phase Two' of Crew 8's Gulf Deployment. I hope you enjoy reading about it.

Yours,

Charlie

## Welcome to the next edition of Crew 8 Chronicles!

The Crew has been deployed to the Middle East since December as part of the Royal Navy's permanent presence in the region.

HMS Middleton is a mine hunter, capable of detecting and defeating sea mines with the use of high frequency sonar, remote underwater vehicles and mine clearance divers.

Forward deployed to the Gulf, she is held at high readiness to react to any threat.

Here is the next chapter of our story...



## MIDDLEton- EAST!

Since our last edition of Crew 8 Chronicles we have travelled over 1000 miles, visited 4 regional ports, taken part in 2 multi-national exercises, enjoyed a week of adventurous training and a week of rest and recuperation with family and friends! Now, after 6 weeks, we have returned to our base port of Bahrain.

## Through the Strait...



Our first exercise was based out of the home of the Royal Navy of Oman, the Said Bin Sultan Naval Base (SBSNB) in Wudam. In order to get there, Middleton needed to travel more than 500 miles through the Central & Southern Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and out in to the Gulf of Oman.

At its narrowest, the Strait of Hormuz has a width of 29 miles and provides the only sea passage from the Gulf to the open ocean and is one of the world's most strategically important choke points. About 20% of the world's petroleum passes through the strait, making it highly important for international trade.



On the passage out, Middleton was part of a 7 vessel task group, including fellow UK ships, HMS Bangor & RFA Lyme Bay.

The Force was escorted by several USN patrol craft & surveillance aircraft. The transit was busy but safe and we sailed into the azure waters of the Gulf of Oman. 2 weeks later, HMS Daring escorted Middleton and a slightly smaller task force back through the strait & back into the Gulf, en route to Dubai for a week with friends & family.





One of the most important reasons the RN has a presence in the Gulf is to promote co-operation and operational cohesion with other navies and regional partners. Over the last 6 weeks, HMS Middleton has been away from her base port of Bahrain doing just that. She has taken part in some exciting tasking including Exercise Khunjar Hadd 22:

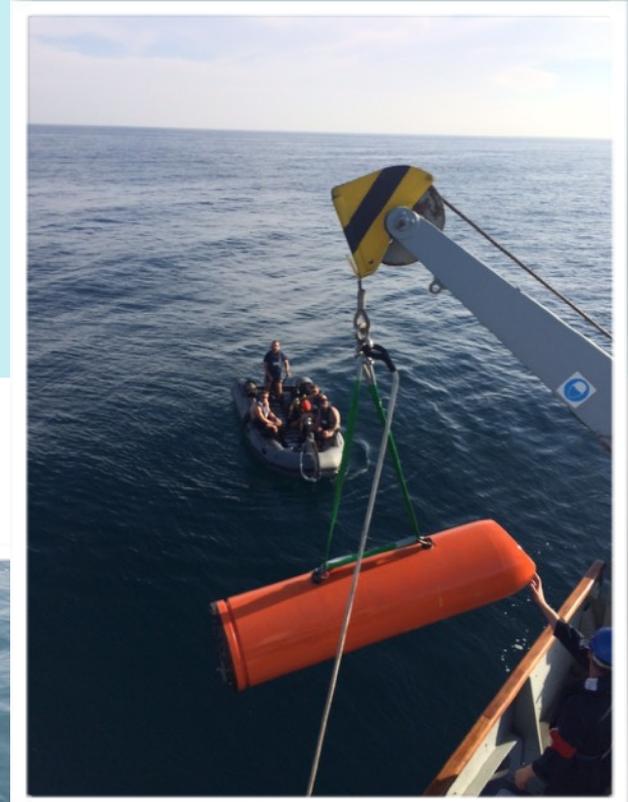
## Exercise Khunjar Hadd 22...

Khunjar Hadd 22 was a multi-faceted exercise hosted by the Royal Navy of Oman with participating units from the RN, USN & French Navy. The scenario brought together a coalition of MCM ships & larger ships to exercise co-operation and develop inter-operability. Middleton was part of an MCM task force which played an integral part in the exercise, clearing important sea lanes after the entrance to a port was mined. The mine hunters were supported by a battle-staff embarked on RFA Lyme Bay whilst larger warships maintained a layered defence including formidable anti-air provided by HMS Daring.

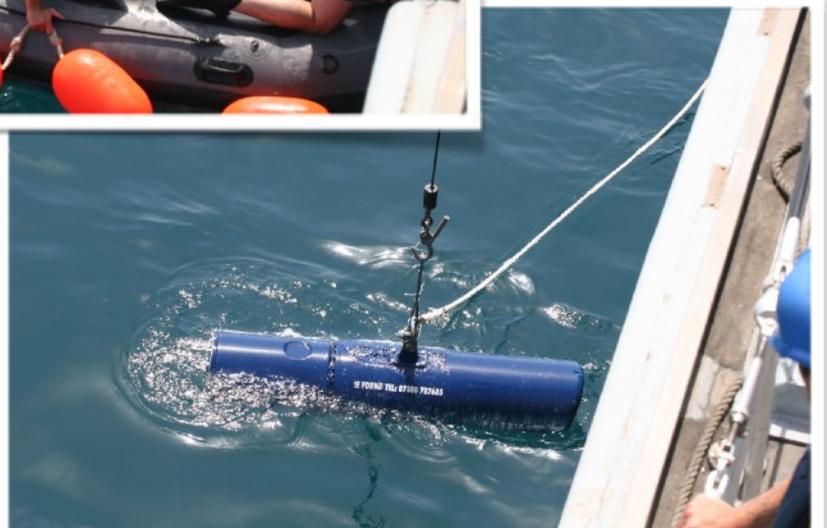


## Mole-In-One Trophy

The first golf competition of the deployment took place in Muscat as part of Adventurous Training week. The players were battling it out for the prestigious 'Mole-In-One' Trophy! There could only be one winner! Find out how it went later in the full match report from our golf correspondent LS(MW) 'Apples' Graham.



## Recovering 'Shapes!' ...



# The Mighty Middleton on exercise...



# Notice Board:

## Alive & Tweeting!

Follow the latest news @HMSMiddleton



## Keeping in touch

Don't forget the ways in which you can keep in touch with loved ones! There is now an E-Bluey website and android app which your sailor can sign up to and send letters and emails quick and easily! Visit [www.ebluey.com](http://www.ebluey.com) for more information.

## Care Packages

There is nothing better than receiving goodies from loved ones at home! You can fill a shoebox full of exciting things. Anything up to 2kg is free, just wrap it up and take to your nearest post office addressed to:

e.g. AB(MW) Smith  
(Service Number)  
HMS MIDDLETON  
BFPO 335  
OP KIPION

They usually arrive within a week! Fantastic!



## Football

The Crew 8 Football Team's inconsistency continues with mixed results following a move from the 11 a-side to the 5 a-side code:

Played 5, 1 x Win, 1 x Draw & 3 x Loss:

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| HMS Middleton | 0 vs 0 French Navy   |
| Penalties:    | (3 vs 1)   |
| Scorers:      | ET (CIS) Will George<br>AB (MW) Jake Caddy<br>ET(CIS) John Clarke                                    |
| HMS Middleton | 4 vs 0 HMS Daring  |
| Goals from:   | CPO (ETME) 'Dutchy' Holland<br>AB (MW) Jake Caddy<br>ET(CIS) John Clarke<br>AB (MW) Jordan Bevington |
| HMS Middleton | 0 vs 1 Royal Navy of Oman  |
| HMS Middleton | 0 vs 0 FN Casiopee   |
| Penalties:    | (1 vs 3)   |
| HMS Middleton | 0 vs 1 FN Andromeda  |

Deployment Totals: Played 7, 1x Win, 2 x Draw & 5 x loss

Top Scorers: 3 Clarke, 3 Caddy, 3 George, 1 Bevington, 1 Holland

## Birthday Boys

The Ship's Company have wished several of our sailors happy birthday since arrival in theatre:

Lt Tom Lewis RN 31st March 2017  
SLt Will Murray 19th February 2017  
LS(Chef) 'Sticky' Green 18th February 2017  
ET(CIS) Clarke 18th February 2017

# En route to Dubai... A week with family & friends



**MCM2 Crew 8 open**  
**Mole in one trophy**  
**Match Report by LS(MW) 'Apples' Graham**

The first MCM2 Crew 8 open took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017

The venue: Al Mouj championship course, Muscat.

**The Players.**

Lt "Fozzy" Forster RN (Navs)  
LS (MW) "Apples" Graham  
LET (ME) "Little Sam" Mullane  
AB (MW) "Cads" Caddy



It Started out rough (no pun intended) to say the least, with all four players losing a ball on the very first hole. However, after the next few holes, it looked like it would be an easy day for the 2 leading hands with Graham leading Mullane, 9 points to 8 after the first 9 holes. Of course, playing the Stapleford scoring system anything could happen, and on the back 9, this proved to be the case. Graham's inconsistent driving game and Mullane's unpredictable short game began to let them down, allowing Forster and Caddy to turn it around! By hole 13 the scores read 11, 10, 10, 10, IT WAS ON!!

The next 5 holes proved crucial, as the leading hands kept sporadically scoring, the navigator somehow navigated the back nine with what seemed like relative ease only dropping points on 2 holes on the entire back 9. By hole 17 it was assessed that only Graham could catch Forster with Mullane on 14 points, Caddy on 13, Graham on 16 and Forster on 18. Graham's chances depended on Forster 'spooning' one into the sea.

Forster steps up, swings and..... Straight into the sea it goes! Grahams chance had come. Graham Steps up swings ..... Absolute disaster... both had gone for a swim and it was all over, with Caddy being the only scorer on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole, the first Crew 8 Champion was named: Lt Chris Forster RN.

Until next time!

**The scores Finished:**

Forster- 18  
Graham- 16  
Caddy- 14  
Mullane- 14



# Adventurous Training- Muscat...



## Meet a sailor...

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Surname:</b> Bevington</p> <p><b>First name:</b> Jordan</p> <p><b>Nickname:</b> Bevy</p> <p><b>Fiance:</b> Sophie McCarthy</p> <p><b>Rank/Rating:</b> AB2</p> <p><b>Age:</b> 22</p> <p><b>Home Town:</b> Ebbw Vale</p>  |  |
| <p>Date joined: <b>22 February 2017</b></p> <p>Present job title and job description:<br/>       Mine Warfare rating.<br/>       Sonar Operator whilst mine hunting. Harbour and sea quartermaster. Seamanship and upkeep and maintenance of equipment.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Best part of deployment so far &amp; why:</b></p> <p>Mine hunting, seeing the world.<br/>       I'm glad to be doing my job and serving my country.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Hobbies/interests/sports:</b><br/>       Rugby player, off road motorbike racer</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Name of school:</b><br/>       Nantyglo High School from Nantyglo, Ebbw Vale South Wales</p> <p>From: 2006 to 2011</p>  |  |
| <p><b>Message from Jordan:</b> "I miss my fiancée and family so much. It's really hard being out on deployment and not being able to see them for such a long time. I love them all so much, but I am where I need to be, I enjoy serving my country and I like making a difference and challenging myself everyday."</p> |  |

