

# The Chronicles Of Crew 4...



Welcome to the brand new edition of  
**The Chronicles Of Crew 4!**



**The Crew has been deployed to the Middle East since June 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...



**A word from the Captain...**



Dear friends and family of Crew 4...

Since I last wrote to you all Crew 4 have delivered a full and exciting programme including live demolitions, operational tasking, defence engagement with other military forces and a highly successful charity event.

All these activities have involved the full range of the Crew and you should be immensely proud of their efforts.

The charity event was the highlight for me, the determination and physical abilities of everyone was impressive and the results will ultimately make a real difference for children suffering with cancer and leukaemia this Christmas.

I thank you all for your continued support.

Yours, Anthony.

## Crew 4 driving lines and FINDING mines...

Whilst at sea conducting routine tasking, HMS MIDDLETON detected an unusual contact on the ships sonar and so continued to investigate using the mine warfare techniques they had practiced months prior. Upon further investigation using remotely operated underwater vehicles and our own clearance divers, the Crew realised that they had uncovered a piece of potential historic ordinance! Approval was given for underwater demolition, and so it was down to the dive team



on board to prepare a diver placed charge and rig it on the contact ready for it to be neutralised. The task of rigging the charge itself was given to AB (diver) Morgan, who managed to take a quick selfie with his work before it was time to resurface and clear out to a safe distance before



the demolition took place. After the controlled explosion was complete it was down to AB (diver) West to dive down onto the neutralised ordinance to ensure the mission was a success (again a quick selfie was an opportunity not to be missed). The ordinance was then finally cleared off the seabed and recovered inboard ready to be disposed of



shoreside.

This was a great success for Crew 4 not only boosting morale but also highlighting to the Royal Navy and indeed the world that Middleton and her team are committed to maintaining sea lines of communication and are ready and trained to carry out successful mine clearance operations.



## Crew 4 complete the Three Peaks Challenge for Charity...

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October Crew 4 took on the epic 3 Peaks Challenge. It was an extremely demanding event over a 12 hour period, all in support of 'Fatboys Children's Charity' which provides Christmas presents for children in the UK suffering with Cancer and Leukaemia.



On the day we not only smashed the 3 peaks distances – we ended up climbing the equivalent height of Mount Everest (8,848 meters)!

The 12 hours saw teams take on the climbing wall at the NSA Bahrain, whilst concurrently tackling the distances between the 3 peaks on 4 exercise bikes. The total ascent of the mountains is 3408m, meaning

that the wall had to be climbed 426 times equivalent to climbing the Empire State Building 8 times! As 2 sailors scaled the wall, 4 members were cycling away on the exercise bikes trying to cover 465 miles in the 12 hours.

As the event started to unfold it was clear that the efforts from everyone involved meant that the challenge could be completed in half the time – meaning that the 3 peaks could be done twice! After finding this out the morale was high and everyone was keen to complete this new challenging target. AB(D) Morgan managed to complete an astonishing 72 climbs in 1 hour, setting the bar high for anyone else, and by the end of the day he had climbed the wall a total of 189 times!

With the hours ticking by and the numbers increasing it was in the final hour when we realised that we could climb the equivalent height of Mt Everest (8848m or 1107 climbs) and cycle Lands End to John O'Groats (884 miles) all within the 12 hours. With the last 10 minutes to go there were only 22 climbs to complete and the last 10 seconds saw the penultimate hand hit the top of the climbing wall before cheers erupted below. The crew of HMS MIDDLETON had not only smashed their original target; they managed to climb Mount Everest and cycle 930 miles all in 12 hours!



Not only was doing the 12 hours a demanding task in itself, but a few of the Ship's Company are scared of heights and until this event had never thought about climbing the wall. Able Seaman (Mine Warfare) Alex Searle said; "I have always been pretty scared of heights and even getting the kit on to climb would have been daunting enough. But seeing everyone else putting lots of effort in and remembering why we are doing this event made me overcome my fears and I managed to complete 17 climbs. It was a brilliant fun for a great cause!"

HMS MIDDLETON's Commanding Officer Lieutenant Commander Anthony Pimm RN said, "What we achieved at the NSA in Bahrain can only be described as a monumental achievement. It was an amazing team effort from everyone involved and it took extraordinary reserves of physical and mental courage but my crew did it - and then some. It may take a while for us to recover but the achievement will last a lifetime and the money raised will make a huge difference to children's lives this Christmas."

The event raised just over £4500 through online donations, money donated throughout the day and funds generated from the ships catering team who baked cakes and cookies sold throughout the day. All money will be given straight to the Fatboys Children Charity and at Christmas the charity purchases toys and games for children who are in hospital suffering with Cancer and leukaemia. Two members of the ship's company, Able Seaman (Mine Warfare) William Jones and Engineering Technician (Weapon Engineering) Stephen Owen will be available on Christmas Day to help give out the toys to the children so that we can continue our support to the charity.



# SHIP NOTICE BOARD

## Birthday Boys...

Happy Birthday to the following Crew 4 sailors:

AB MW Sean "Nosey" Parker

AB MW Garath "Taff" Rees

ET ME Tom "Sharkey" Ward

## Care Packages

With Christmas just around the corner why not send your loved one a care package? 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

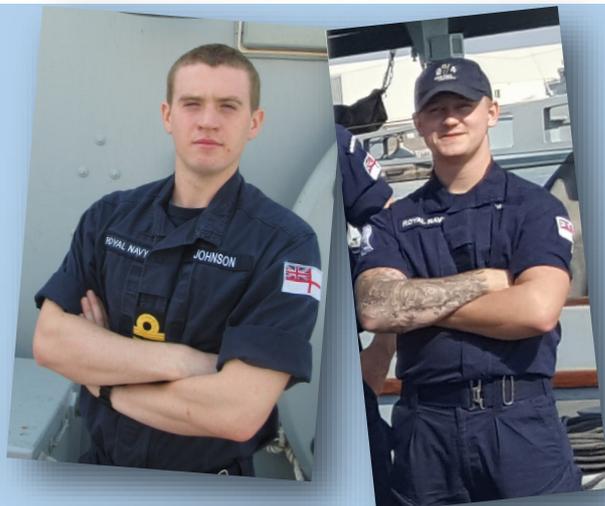
\*Ghost Post Code BF1 4HU\*

They usually arrive within 2 weeks! Fantastic!



## Farewell Guns and Ste...

Crew 4 bids a fond farewell to SLT Johnson who will be undertaking the Mine Clearance Diving Officer Course in the New year, and also ET (WE) 'Ste' Owen who has gone to back to the UK to begin his promotion course as he prepares to become a Leading Hand. Good luck and all the best to both of them from all on board...



# SHIP NOTICE BOARD

## Messages from the Sailors...

Happy 5th Birthday to Oliver and  
Happy 4th Birthday to Ava, Auntie  
Lauren loves you both lots! xx

To my beautiful Fiancé Jade and my little boy  
Oscar, have an amazing Christmas and a  
Happy New Year. Love you loads and cant wait  
to be back xx...P.s a big shout out to the Forward  
mess, big it up! Marcus.

To Meg Meg and Pip Pips,  
Mommy misses you both. Lots  
of love Lucy xxx

## MEO's DINING OUT DINNER...

One final goodbye is reserved for Crew 4's very own MEO-WO1 'Johnno' Johnson. As a way of saying thank you, the Senior Rates hosted a leaving dinner for him during an evening alongside. A good evening was had by all who attended with particular praise going to the Leading Chef and his team for fantastic food and service throughout the evening...the Baileys ice cream was a particular favourite!



## Crew 4 conduct defence engagement ...

During a period alongside in Bahrain, HMS MIDDLETON welcomed a variety of Bahraini and American personnel on board throughout the week, to give them a taste of what the Hunt Class Mine Counter Measure Vessel was capable of and why her presence in the Arabian Gulf is so important.

The first guests on board were two Bahraini Coastguard Officers, who joined Middleton in the morning ready for a full day at sea to demonstrate her role and abilities as a Mine Hunter. Once underway, the Officers were given a comprehensive brief on the ships fire fighting and damage control procedures before

witnessing a set of fire fighting drills from members of the ships company. After lunch in the Wardroom the main broadcast pipe was made for a man overboard exercise and so the guests were ushered up to the bridge wing to observe a man overboard recovery using both the swimmer of the watch and the sea boat. Finally before returning alongside the Bahraini Officers were shown Middleton's diving and remotely operated underwater vehicle capability, both of which they found highly interesting.



On the second day several high ranking Officers from Combined Task Force 152 were welcomed on board by the Ships Commanding Officer Lt Cdr Pimm personally. They were shown to the Wardroom for refreshments before receiving an extensive brief from both the ships Executive Officer and Operations Officer regarding Middleton's unique capabilities.

The guests were then escorted down to the sweep deck where several stands had been set up for AB (MW) Casswell and AB (Diver) West to show how the ship detects and defeats sea mines with the use of high frequency sonar, remote underwater vehicles and mine clearance divers.



On the third day Middleton had the privilege for some of her Ships Company to go and visit the allied American Cyclone Class Warship USS SQUALL. The Crew from Middleton were welcomed on board by the Commanding Officer and the Operations Officer from Squall and were given an



in depth tour of the ship, which included meeting and engaging with members of her ships company. Many of Middleton's crew who went over for the visit commented on how friendly their US counterparts had been and so a tour of Middleton to repay the favour was organised, along with a volleyball tournament to see which ship would come out on top!

Following the success of the Squall visit it was only right that Middleton

repaid the favour and so on the final day she played host for several Sailors and Officers from Squall, to show them around the ship and show them the differences and similarities between the two allied vessels. In the afternoon, as promised, the two Ships company's headed over to the Volleyball court to spend the afternoon playing volleyball and socialising, although no clear winner was established the culmination of the two day DE did result in a friendship that will hopefully continue throughout the deployment, with several events being planned for the two ships in the future.



Overall the week spent in Bahrain proved a great success for Middleton, as she not only forged new friendships but also demonstrated to her allies that she is more than capable of undergoing the tasks given to her while out here on Operations.



## Crew 4 Visit HMS JUFFAIR...

This month Crew 4 got the opportunity to have an exclusive look at the new military base being built out here in Bahrain. HMS JUFFAIR will, in the not too distant future, be the home to all UK MCM units operating out in the Gulf, and so a tour of our new home was met with great excitement. The Base Warrant Officer led the tour and began by showing the Crew around several of the hangers which will be used to hold vital shoreside support equipment for the deployed units. The Crew were then shown around the accommodation blocks, the recreation space and the



fitness facilities which will be available for all to use. The tour ended in the spacious shared dining facility, where questions were asked by members of the Crew and feedback given on the progress so far. HMS JUFFAIR hopes to be open in 2018 and based on the development to date, it should be a fantastic modern establishment which can provide the services required by the units deployed.



## The Washington Red Skins visit Crew 4...

HMS MIDDLETON recently had the privilege of hosting the Washington Red Skins cheerleading squad for the morning; as they prepared to perform at the American base that evening. The group were greeted by the hosting team on the gangway, before being shown to the Fo'c'sle for a Crew photo with a difference. For the cheerleaders this was the first UK ship they had ever been on and so were keen for a whole ship tour to see not only where the Crew work but also where they socialise and relax. After the tour was over, refreshments were provided on the sweep deck by AB (Std) Pickering and AB (MW) Casswell for the Cheerleaders and their team, this also gave a good opportunity for the cheerleaders and Crew to socialise. The final element of the visit involved a clear lower deck of all ranks and rates as the cheerleaders had prepared a routine for the Crew on the jetty. A great morning was had by all and morale was definitely on a high as MIDD sailed that afternoon to crack on with the tasking at hand.

