

DEPLOY

DUNCAN AS SNMG2 FLAGSHIP

Issue 02 | February 2018



A Pilot's view of HMS DUNCAN from a Romanian MiG-21

DUNCAN IN THE BLACK SEA

February has been a busy month for DUNCAN with her spending three weeks operating in the Black Sea, conducting training with other NATO units, plus real world interactions with Russian forces.

After leaving Catania, Sicily, DUNCAN had a brief logistics stop in Souda Bay, Crete, before making our through the Aegean Sea and into the Straits. After a two day transit we were greeted by the sight of the majestic Gallipoli peninsular where some of the fiercest fighting of WWI took place. DUNCAN continued her journey up the Southern Straits with our Task Group companion the Turkish Ship GAZIANTEP. DUNCAN then passed through the Sea of Marmara and the Northern Straits past Istanbul, a spectacular backdrop and a future port of call.

Once in the Black Sea, a Russian Krivak Class Frigate was waiting to meet us and would be our shadow for some time. Interaction was professional at all times but the Russian unit was operating under clear orders to monitor NATO activity in the area and remained with us. Training continued, including an anti-submarine exercise with a live Turkish Submarine, but this was cut short by a man overboard incident. In the twilight the Ship's Company swung into action to recover an object in the water which appeared to be a man. Fortunately the "man" turned out to be a "man shaped log" but the team had demonstrated their ability to quickly respond in an emergency.

After a busy few days of exercising with Romanian Navy, DUNCAN proceeded into Constanta, Romania where she linked up with the Flagship of the Standing NATO Mine Counter Measure Group 2 (SNMCMG2) HMS ENTERPRISE. Upon sailing, DUNCAN continued to exercise with Task Group units, including the Romanian Frigate REGELE FERDINAND (an old UK Type 22). This included an air defence exercise in which Romanian MiG-21 jets simulated attacks on surface units.

The next port of call was Varna, Bulgaria before sailing to conduct Black Sea reassurance operations off Crimea.

Again the Task Group was shadowed by a Russian Frigate and was also subject to an unprecedented level of interactions with Russian Fighter Jets. This proved fascinating for the Warfare team and provided a real demonstration of the world class capability that the Type 45 can provide.

DUNCAN, as expected, performed diligently in her role as an Air Defence Destroyer in a real world situation, keeping other units in our Task Group informed of the air picture thanks to our high tech radars. After all of the excitement it was time for DUNCAN to visit the beautiful city of Istanbul, Turkey. Much colder than the visit last year, Istanbul offered amazing landmarks, fantastic food and opportunity for a traditional Turkish Bath!

DUNCAN remains the SNMG2 Flagship and will continue to fulfil this function until further notice. This will see her operating in the Mediterranean and Black Sea over the next few months, providing a Command platform for the NATO Staff.

201 Flight Embarked

HMS DUNCAN is joined by the members of 201 Flight of 815 Naval Air Squadron and their Wildcat HMA Mk2 helicopter. The team is formed of 9 engineers, 3 aircrew and one aircraft controller. The Wildcat is primarily designed to hunt ships using her powerful radar and day/night camera, but has a wide range of other roles including: search and rescue, medical transport, humanitarian aid delivery and passenger transfer. The Flight will assist DUNCAN with her NATO tasking and provide an essential air bridge to other ships and shore locations.



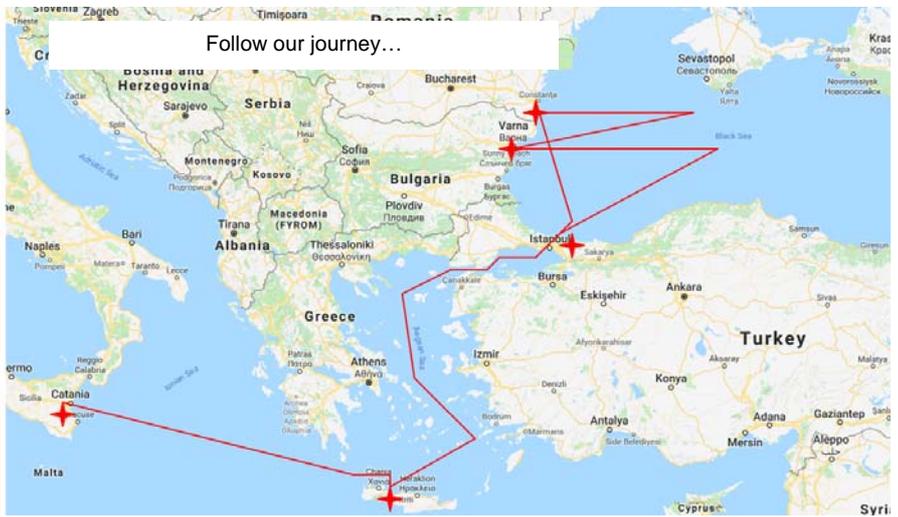
A view from the Wildcat

WORD SEARCH

S	R	G	E	D	K	P	I	R	A	T	E	S	P
T	W	S	H	A	R	K	S	J	D	C	Q	A	H
U	P	A	K	G	O	D	P	H	U	F	M	N	I
B	A	H	S	S	I	L	C	J	P	A	T	C	H
M	R	O	D	H	R	E	W	E	O	H	B	K	N
G	R	Y	E	I	B	N	R	G	M	X	S	T	R
O	O	R	L	P	A	U	V	T	E	W	Q	U	S
L	T	F	O	N	S	D	C	R	E	W	F	T	A
D	D	E	V	A	O	T	V	K	G	S	R	K	B
F	G	O	E	S	Z	R	A	P	L	A	N	K	E
D	A	R	U	Y	C	A	P	T	A	I	N	C	R
I	T	F	X	C	E	V	T	S	R	U	N	R	T
X	W	S	T	I	L	P	R	D	Q	A	R	G	H

FIND THESE WORDS:

AHOY	ARGH	CAPTAIN	CREW	GOLD	MAP	PATCH
PLANK	SABER	SHARKS	SHIP	SWASHBUCKLING	TREASURE	



TURKISH SKI TRIP?

Skiing in Turkey might not be at the forefront of everyone's minds, however the DUNCAN Ski Team led by the DLO once again reunited for a day on the slopes. Approx 4 hours drive from Istanbul lies the resort of Kartalkaya. A fantastic setup with everything facilitated from within the hotel, and the slopes literally being outside the back door. A cross section of Ship's Company attended along with members of our film crew. The trip was attended by novice skiers, to members of the RN Ski Team, along with those on snowboards. After a rather foggy drive up to the resort in the evening, the cloud lifted the next day to reveal some beautiful views, exceptional skiing, and a lot of sunshine - the photo just doesn't do it justice. A fantastic outing.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

Although significantly chillier than our visit last year, it is a pleasure to be back in the Black Sea! DUNCAN is proud to have the opportunity to once again work with friends and allies that we met last year and continue a high level of International Maritime Training. We have continued to prove that the Type 45 is the most advanced Air Defence platform in the world. The team have worked hard to keep the ship ready for operations and this has involved every member working long hours.

I would like to thank my Ship's Company for making my (significant ...) birthday very special! I was gifted with a wonderful video of the crew that I will certainly watch again in the future and have fond memories of you all and this deployment.

I would also like to thank all of you at home that continue to support my Ship's Company while we are away. It is particularly important at a time like this when our programme is so changeable, making personal planning very difficult. Thank you for understanding and being there for us all.

As we continue as NATO Flagship, it will provide challenging and rewarding tasking for the Ship and I have every confidence that DUNCAN will continue to deliver on operations and hold high her reputation as 'The Last and Best'.



ROYAL NAVY BOARDING TEAM

During the Black Sea phase of the SNMG2 Deployment, our Royal Navy and Royal Marine Boarding Teams conducted 5 joint training exercises with their opposite numbers from the Romanian Military. Both teams boarded the Romanian Ship REGELE FERDINAND for basic and advanced boarding exercises, before hosting the Romanian units on DUNCAN for similar training. Also, a unique opportunity to board a Merchant Vessel while alongside in Constanta became apparent, with the Marines conducting Close Quarter Battle Drills, and the Royal Navy team (pictured) seizing the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the layout of a civilian ship – vastly different to that of DUNCAN!

LOGS UPDATE

Since deploying, DUNCAN has eaten 197 meals including ...
 272kg of Sausages
 500kg of fresh fruit
 21,240 eggs

We have also held 3 NATO Receptions onboard making 2400 hand crafted canapés and over 900 hand made chocolates!

The training serials were extremely useful, both in re-assuring our NATO allies that the UK is ready to support the Black Sea region in the face of adversity, while also maximising the training opportunities and operational readiness of DUNCAN's Boarding Team.